

1 Britain's multicultural society is bringing a lot of interesting new ideas to the arts these days. Young black and Asian authors are writing about their lives, and their books are very popular. There are plays and films about the life of Britain's ethnic communities, and exciting music from many different cultures. Multiculturalism is making Britain a very lively place.



2 Andrea Levy is typical of these authors: she comes from Britain and all her books are set in London but her parents are from the Caribbean. Her prize-winning novel, *Small Island*, is about people like her parents and their lives in Britain in the 1940s and 50s. In the book, she writes about the experiences of Jamaican soldiers in World War 2 and their lives when they move to England in 1948.



4 Apache Indian (real name: Steven Kapur) is a world-famous musician from England's second city, Birmingham. His home city has large Jamaican and Indian populations and his music brings together reggae from the West Indies, bhangra from India and hip-hop. The words of his songs are about trying to understand his identity in a multicultural world. His most famous song *Boom-Shack-A-Lack* is in five Hollywood films and more than fifty TV advertisements.

3 Parminder Nagra is the star of the popular football film, *Bend It Like Beckham*. She comes from the English town, Leicester, where there is a large Asian population. In the film, she acts the part of a lively girl called Jess Bhamra. Jess decides to rebel against her family and to play football. This amusing film shows the problems of young British people growing up in two cultures. These days Parminder Nagra is starring in the American TV hospital drama, *ER*.



READING

1 1.1 Read the questions. Then read the article quickly and circle the correct answers.

- The article is about British
 - society.
 - culture.
 - history.
 - writers.
- Paragraph 2 is about an author who is:
 - bilingual.
 - writing now.
 - living outside Britain.
 - writing in another language.
- Paragraph 3 is about
 - a comedian.
 - a British actress.
 - an American star.
 - a footballer.
- Paragraph 4 is about
 - a musician.
 - a Hollywood actor.
 - Indian music.
 - a man from Jamaica.

2 Complete the definitions with the correct underlined words from the article.

- amusing (*adj*) makes you laugh or smile
- exciting (*n*) the ideas and activities of groups of people
- reggae (*n*) music, theatre, film etc, not science
- rebel (*v*) to fight authority, for example, the government, parents or teachers
- multiculturalism (*n*) a type of music from Asia

3 Read the article again. Tick true and cross false.

- Cultural life in Britain is very boring.
- There are British writers, musicians and actors from ethnic communities.
- Andrea Levy is the only black British author.
- Andrea Levy writes about people living in London.
- Parminder Nagra is a footballer.
- Bend It Like Beckham* is a crime film.
- At the moment Parminder Nagra is working in an American hospital.
- Steven Kapur is from Jamaica.
- His music comes from different cultures.

4 Complete the sentences with the words from Exercise 2.

- Teenagers often rebel against their parents.
- When you travel you learn about different _____.
- You can listen to _____ on the Internet.
- My brother is a scientist and he isn't interested in _____.
- Bhaji on the Beach* is an _____ film about a group of Asian women on a journey.