



## Saroj Sharma's Story

Saroj Sharma came to live in England when she was only six years old. Her father had already been living and working in Birmingham, earning money so he could provide his family with a comfortable life both in England and back home.

Saroj knew very little about England before she came here. At school she learnt about the British Empire. But she could not have up-to-date information, because she did not have access to it, the way we do today. She had no internet, travel brochures or travel programmes on television, to refer to. Few people travelled abroad in the 1950s because travel took a long time and it was very expensive. It took Saroj two weeks to travel to England by ship, whereas today you can get here by plane in only nine hours!

Saroj remembers helping her mother to pack before she came. Although she was excited about coming to England, she also felt nervous about how she would cope with her new life.

### Activity

Imagine you have been given the opportunity to start a new life abroad. What five items would you pack?