



Timeline	
1497	The start of the British Empire with Newfoundland being discovered.
1600	Formation of the East Indian company.
1607	Established the first permanent settlement in the Americas at Jamestown.
1620s	Empire expands to the Caribbean.
1668	English East India Company takes over Bombay.
1773	The Boston Tea Party- Rising signs of discontent in America with British rule.
1787	The British politician William Wilberforce, began his campaign to end slavery in British colonies.
1921	The British Empire at its territorial peak.
1947	Declaration of Indian Independence
1956-1966	Colonies throughout Africa declare independence.
1982	Falklands war.
1997	Hong Kong handed back to Chinese.
Present day	Britain and the Commonwealth Nations.

Key Facts
In 1921, Britain’s empire reached its peak, ruling over 412 million people and an area of 35.5 million square kilometres.
As the Empire expanded missionaries-built schools and hospitals to provide education and healthcare for communities throughout the Empire as well as spreading the word of God.
It was thought that the more land Britain controlled and the more people that formed part of the British army, the more powerful Britain would be.
After the huge costs of the First World War and the Second World War, Britain could not afford the expense of governing so colonies argued that they should have the right of self-determination .

Key Quotations
<i>We will not have failure – only success and new learning. Queen Victoria</i>
<i>We must find new lands from which we can easily obtain raw materials and at the same time exploit the cheap slave labour that is available from the natives of the colonies. Cecil Rhode</i>

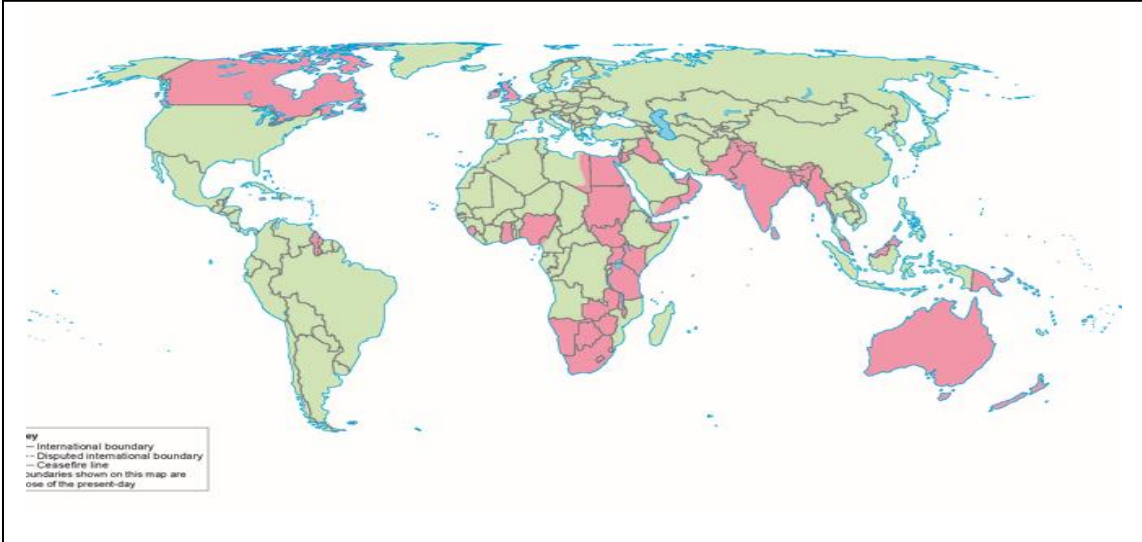
Vocabulary Dozen	
Colony	A country or area controlled by a more powerful country that is often far way.
Empire	An extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch.
Exploit	To use something in a way that helps you.
Government	The group of people who officially control a country.
Import	To buy or bring in products from another country.
Industrial revolution	The period of time during which work began to be done more by machines in factories than by hand at home.
Invasion	An instance of invading a country or region with an armed force.
Occupy	To take control of a place / a country by military force.
Raw material	Any material, such as oil, cotton, or sugar in its natural condition.
Self-determination	The right to have an independent country free of control from Britain to run in the way that they felt best.

Home Historian:

Read this article about the Battle of Britain and watch the animations to help you understand more about World War II - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/what-was-the-secret-to-winning-the-battle-of-britain/z7m3t39>



The British Empire at its height in 1921



Cecil Rhodes, a British businessman and politician in the 1800s – he considered the British to be a superior race to any other in the world and that Britain therefore had a duty to rule other nations and to stop them from being ‘savages’.

Importing Goods

Britain wanted raw materials from the countries in their Empire. Examples are:

Wood From Canada



Sugar Cane From Antigua



Tea From India

