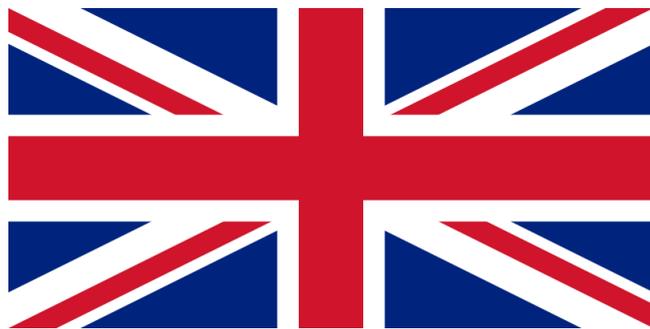


Homework 1: Term 3: The British Empire: What is an empire and why did Britain want an empire?

(Factual Recall and Literacy)

The British Empire included all the territories (land) that were ruled by Britain. Under Queen Victoria's rule, until 1901, she doubled its size to make it the largest empire in history - it controlled 23% of the world's surface and 458 million people at its peak. It was described as being the "Empire on which the sun never sets".



Trade with the Empire made Britain rich. The most famous part of the British Empire was the East India Trading Company, which started out as a small business before becoming a very large trading company in Asia that many people depended on. It mainly traded in: cotton, silk, indigo dye and tea. Tea was its most successful import into Britain where it became a popular drink among the common people during the Victorian period.

During the 1880s, Britain took control of large parts of Africa, including: Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Egypt. This became known as the 'scramble for Africa' as Britain competed with other Empire builders, especially France and Belgium, to colonize (take over) countries.

Some families emigrated from Britain to new homes in countries of the Empire, in particular: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada.

Children were taught about the British Empire in school and could easily find the countries of the Empire on a map as they were always coloured in pink or red

Homework Questions:

- 1: What percentage % of the land mass did Britain control by 1901?
- 2: How many million people belonged to the empire at its peak?
- 3: List three goods traded in the empire
- 4: What does colonise mean?
- 5: Which countries did Britain colonise in Africa?
- 6: List three countries families emigrated to from Britain
- 7: How could you find a country in the British Empire on a map of the world?

Challenge Yourself: Why do you believe Britain was so keen to gain an empire?
Explain at least two reasons and a judgment on the greatest reason