



VILE VICTORIANS – HOW HAS THE BRITISH EMPIRE CHANGED?



Sticky Knowledge

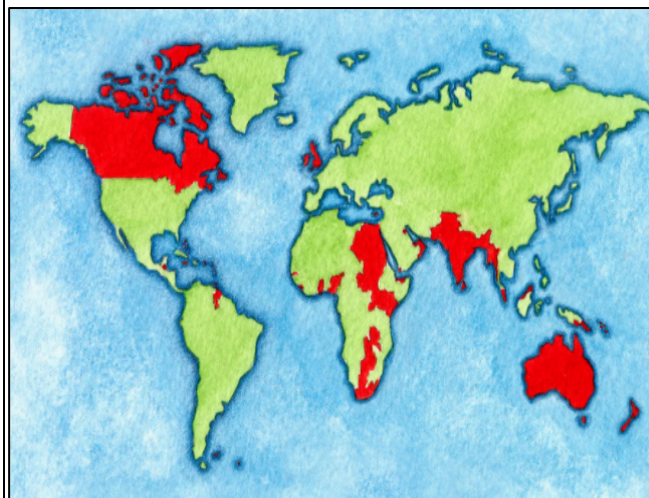
The **British Empire** was the largest empire in history. For over a century, it was the world's **foremost power**.

The British Empire was first established as early as 1497, however it **reached its peak in the years between 1815 and 1914**.

The process through which the British (and other nations of the time) began to spread power beyond its borders is called **imperialism**.

The British Empire was spread as far as New Zealand in the east and Canada in the west. It has **hugely influenced** societies, cultures, industries and the way that people live across the world.

Map showing the approximate extent of the British Empire at its peak. By 1920, the British Empire covered 35,500,000km², around 24% of Earth's land area.



Key Vocabulary



Countries and Territories within the British Empire

NORTH AMERICA		North America was the location of the first British colonies. It was known as the 'New World.' From 1775, thirteen colonies in North America combined and fought to be free in the War of Independence. Their success led to the creation of the USA.
CARIBBEAN		Over the course of the 17 th and 18 th centuries, Britain gained major colonies on the islands of the Caribbean Sea. The climate was perfect for growing sugar and tobacco, so plantations were set up. Britain became very rich from this.
AFRICA		From 1881 to 1902, Britain competed with other European empire-builders in what became known as the 'Scramble for Africa.' By the early 1900s, huge parts of Africa, including Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria, were under British rule.
ASIA		After losing huge parts of its colony in the American War of Independence, Britain turned its attention to parts of Asia in the 18 th and 19 th centuries, e.g. colonies were formed in the Middle East, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Hong Kong & Singapore.
INDIA		Areas of India were under British rule for hundreds of years. From the 1600s until 1858 these areas were run by the English East India Company. After 1858 until 1947 they became the British Raj. In 1876, Queen Victoria became 'Empress of India.'

Queen Victoria

- Queen Victoria was born on May 24th (1819).
- She was originally named Alexandrina Victoria.
- She became Queen when she was 18.
- She was barely 5 feet tall.
- She is the second-longest reigning British monarch.
- She went on to have 9 children, 40 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren, many of whom married into other royal families around Europe.
- Prince Albert, her husband, passed away from typhoid fever aged 42.
- During her reign, the British Empire ruled a quarter of the world's population.
- Queen Victoria died on 22nd January 1901, at aged 81.



Trade

The action of buying and selling goods and services.

Circumnavigation

The action or process of sailing all the way around something, especially the world.

Colony

A country or area under the full control of another country and occupied by settlers from that country.

Exploration

The action of exploring an unfamiliar area.

British Empire

The group of countries that in the past were ruled or controlled by the U.K., including Australia, Canada, India, and many parts of Africa.

Timeline

pre-1497CE – British rulers attempt to conquer new lands.

1497 – John Cabot reaches Newfoundland in search of Asia.

1577-1580 – Sir Francis Drake completes his circumnavigation of the world.

1600 – The Formation of the East India Company.

1607 – First permanent settlement of Americas at Jamestown.

1775-1783 – American War of Independence

1787 – First shipment of prisoners to Australia.

1867 – Canada given 'dominion' (self-governing) status.

1876 – Queen Victoria is named the 'Empress of India.'

Post 1918: Attitudes towards imperialism begin to change.