

### Vocabulary

'Victorian Age'	noun	The period of Queen Victoria's reign, from 20 <sup>th</sup> June 1837 until her death on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 1901.
Industrial Revolution	noun	It began on the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century and described the transition from a society based on hand manufacturing and human power to a society based on machinery
Imperial	noun	Belonging or relating to an empire
trade	verb	Buying, selling or exchanging goods between people, companies and countries
slave	noun	A person who is owned by another person and has to obey them
World trade	noun	the exchange of capital, goods, and services across international borders or territories.

### QUESTION 1: How did the Industrial Revolution transform Britain?

The Industrial Revolution made a major impact on British society as factories spread, cities grew, workers faced harsh conditions at work and at home, and transportation flourished. As the 19th century approached, Great Britain was the 'Workshop of the World' and a major power. The British Empire was important because it spread the industrialisation framework, along with industrial advancements made first in Britain and capital, across the world.

### QUESTION 2: What is an Empire?

An Empire is a group of countries, people or land that is controlled and ruled by one powerful country. The British Empire, at its largest, covered 13 million miles or 22% of the world! It controlled over 450 million people or 1/5 of the world's population. It began in the 16th Century, with British forces establishing trading posts overseas and grew all the way through to the 20th Century.



**QUESTION 3: What were some of the main countries of the British Empire?**

Australia - Australia was used as a location for criminals. Criminals would be shipped to Australia, where they would be used as a workforce. They built roads, buildings, houses, shops etc.

The Caribbean - the Caribbean grew important crops that Britain could not. Therefore sugar, cocoa and coffee were all grown in the Caribbean and taken to Britain. In the middle of the 1800's however, a combination of bad weather and the growth of sugar in America, led to less money being made from the area.

Africa - Britain used the people of Africa as slaves and made a lot of money selling them at auctions. The Gold Coast was important because it held lots of gold, ivory and silver, which were traded for fortunes.

India - India was an important producer of spices and of materials that were traded for money across the Empire.

**QUESTION 4: What events and actions caused the fall of the empire?**

Actions by people in the colonies - There were demonstrations against British rule in the 1920's  
Britain allowed Ireland partition (splitting into Northern Ireland and Ireland)

There were strikes in India, Egypt and Kenya against British Rule.

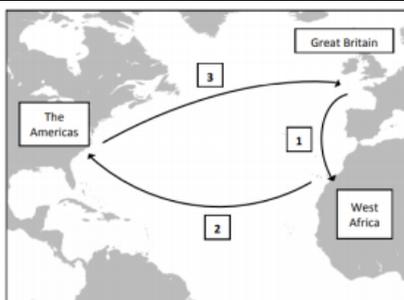
World Events - In 1931, Canada, Australia and New Zealand formed a new Commonwealth.

The cost of keeping a large number of soldiers to defend the empire was too much. It also became clearer that the Empire could no longer provide Great Britain with the military and economic security it needed. Exports focused from Western Europe and the USA, rather than the Empire

**QUESTION 5: What were the benefits of the expanded British Empire?**

**British** traders made fortunes from ships freighted with opium off the coast of China. They helped themselves to the riches of India. They planted new crops in their expanding colonies, like rubber in Malaysia. By the end of the 19th century, more than half the **world's trade** was financed with **British** pounds. This success was partly based on slave labour from West Africa. Until the abolition of the slave trade within the British Empire in 1807, British companies supplied the colonies with slaves, along with capital and manufactured goods, including cloth and hardware of various kinds. Britain imported agricultural commodities, including sugar, tobacco and rice.

**QUESTION 6: What was the transatlantic slave trade?**



The transatlantic slave trade is sometimes known as the 'Triangular Trade', since it was three-sided, involving voyages: from Europe to Africa, from Africa to the Americas, from the Americas back to Europe. Revenue from slavery and the slave trade filtered back into the British economy in indirect ways.

**Suggested activities/websites**

- Visit the following website. <http://www.victorianschool.co.uk/empire.html> Find these countries in a map.
- Order the countries in the British Empire from the most important one to Queen Victoria to the least
- <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/victorian-britain/british-empire/>