The British Empire

What was the British Empire and what was its impact on the world?

EMPIRE:
A collection of countries or colonies ruled over by one nation or leader

BRITISH EMPIRE:
A collection of countries or colonies ‘belonging’ to Britain ruled over by the British monarchy / government
Make an A-Z list of as many countries as you can think of.
How many countries can you name from this map – especially the grey countries…
The Sun Never Sets on the British Empire… ?

What does this saying mean?
The sun never set on the British Empire:

The Empire was so big that it covered much of the planet meaning when it was night time in one country of the empire, it was day time in another country elsewhere on the planet. Eg. Night time in Britain, Day time in Australia
What is an empire?
One country ruling over others.

Why would the British want one?
- to trade with the countries they took over
- to stop other countries getting more powerful
- to pass on your religion to other countries
- to get rich
- to get a good government job in another country
- to have a new life in another country

Which is the most important reason? Which is the least important?
Britain set up colonies in America and some trading posts in some countries in the 17th century. They could easily fight untrained enemies. British colonies had to buy goods from other countries. The British could bring back raw materials like furs, tobacco, and tea. Britain’s main rival was France. France was bigger and had a better army but they were involved in wars in other regions. And because Britain concentrated on their empire, they took over more countries.

Sugar / Empire / natives / Europe / Britain / 13 / India / France
## Benefits of the British Empire

- By expanding colonies (where people live) overseas made England one of the most important countries in the world.
- Britain made a lot of money due to creating restrictions on goods made and sold.

## Drawbacks of the British Empire

- The British colonies were not allowed to make goods. They had to buy the goods from Britain costing the colonies much more money.
- Lots of violence around the Empire.
Let’s look at some sources and see how they portray the British Empire and its value to you…

Make detailed notes / observations from the sources for each source…
Queen Victoria was crowned Empress of India in 1876.

What does this tell us about Britain’s role in the world once it had an Empire?
India had some of the world’s best silk. The British wanted this as it was luxury and a sign of wealth.
India had huge amounts of tea. Tea had become very popular in Britain, and they had lots of things that they could trade for it.
South Africa had lots of Diamonds to be mined. The British wanted these as they were a sign of wealth and could trade what they had for them.
Nigeria was rich in Cocoa beans, which is used to make chocolate. Sweet food had become very popular in Britain and was in huge demand. Britain could trade what it had for Cocoa.
The Secret of England's Greatness. 1863

It depicts Queen Victoria presenting a bible to a kneeling African chief. She was crowned Empress of India in 1876.

What is the significance of the bible?
Britain was a Christian country and believed that it was their duty to spread this religion. They often sent Christian ‘Missionaries’ to the parts of the Empire that needed to be converted and ‘civilised’.
From 1850 onwards **Britain** would have been top of this list!

<table>
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<th>Rank</th>
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<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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British Civil Servants enjoyed life and work in the Empire.

In order to effectively run the countries, Britain had to send such government and military workers abroad for long periods of time to run the countries of the Empire.

**What would this have been like for the Civil Servants? Is it a good way to work?**
The British people (especially the upper classes) could travel around the countries of the Empire on holidays. Here a couple are on a hunting trip, these were very popular.

Also, British families could easily go to live in a country within the Empire if they wished.

How is this important for Britain? Would this be desirable?
Trading was not the only important thing that the British could do successfully with an Empire. It also allowed British businesses and companies to operate in the countries of the Empire. They became very successful and wealthy, and often this money was brought back and spent in Britain.

Why might Britain want an Empire? Are there any drawbacks?
Empire – “the British Empire”

Expansion – “The Expansion of the B.E was rapid”

Colony – “Ghana was a colony in Africa”

Country’s – “Sugar was that COUNTRY’S biggest export”

Abolition – “The abolition of Slavery was long overdue”

Independent – “USA wanted to be independent of Britain”

Exhibition – “Crystal Palace held the Great Exhibition”

Raj – “The Raj was an unpleasant time for Indians in the Empire”

Jubilee – “Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee”

Anniversary – “2014 was the 100th Anniversary of the start of WW1”

Resource – “This was a key resource from USA”

Countries – “There were many countries in the Empire”

Campaign – “There was a campaign to end slavery”

Colonies – “There were several colonies in Africa.”