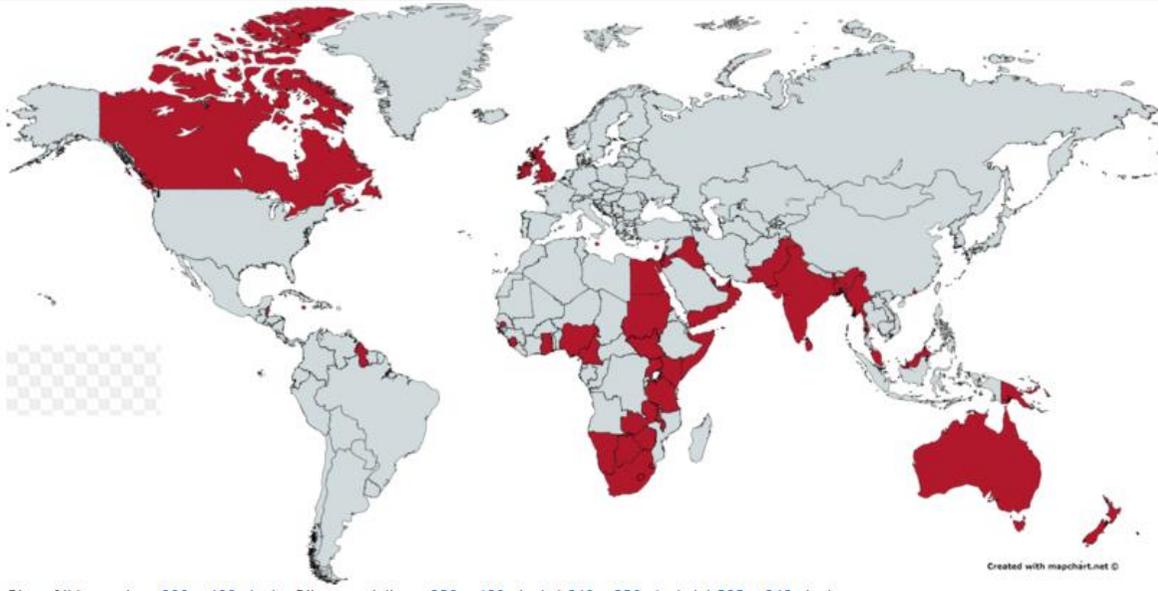


River Bank Primary Knowledge Organiser Geography		Year 4	Spring 1	Victorians
<b>British Empire</b>		<b>The Empire on which the sun never sets</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>British Empire originated in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries when British explorers began to establish overseas colonies. Colonies were established for trade and financial benefits.</li> <li>When Queen Victoria came to the throne Britain already governed Canada, large areas of India (called the jewel in the crown of the British Empire), Australia and New Zealand and small parts of South America and Africa.</li> <li>From 1870s Britain set out to control and influence over new territories particularly in Africa for trade and profit. Britain focused on the north-east of the continent with the profitable Suez Canal, that ran through Egypt, and also on the south of the continent around South Africa.</li> <li>One of the famous characters was a Scottish explorer Dr Livingstone who mapped out much of Africa and tried to locate the source of River Nile.</li> <li>Britain became the greatest empire the world has ever seen – for more than a century (100 years) Britain was the biggest global power. The Empire included over 14 million square miles of territory (one fifth of the Earth's land surface) and 450 million people (more than a quarter of the global population)</li> <li>'The Empire on which the sun never set' meant that it was always daylight in some part of the British Empire. The saying also implied that the Empire would never end.</li> <li>Colonies were a supplier of an increasing range of food and cheap raw materials to the industries in Britain.</li> <li>After World War II Britain was in debt and was no longer capable to financially support its empire, which started to decline.</li> </ul>		 <p>Created with mapchart.net ©</p>		
<b>Countries that formed part of British Empire</b>		<b>Britain during Victorian times</b>		
<b>Country</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Until</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Britain was known as the workshop of the world because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>it had the most developed mechanical engineering (steam engines, locomotives, ships)</li> <li>its factories mass produced goods, especially ceramics and textile for home and export markets</li> <li>its ports (e.g. London, Liverpool, Bristol) were full of ships arriving from the colonies, carrying goods that were processed and sold in Britain.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Railways, steamship network and invention of electric telegraph secured British economic success.</li> <li>Regional specialism persisted – iron was mined in Black Country and south Wales, ceramics were produced in Staffordshire, shoes in Northampton, steel in Sheffield; shipbuilding developed on Tyneside and Clydeside, steel and chemical industry along the Mersey and Tees.</li> <li>Industrial revolution meant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>new markets, consumer boom and greater prosperity for some people</li> <li>rapid, sometimes chaotic change as towns and cities expanded very fast due to more and more people moving from farms to cities to work in factories</li> <li>poor housing, lack of sanitation and long working hours which contributed to infectious diseases and premature death for many people</li> <li>increase in the population of the United Kingdom from 25.5 million to 41 million during Queen Victoria's reign.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ireland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>population almost halved (from eight million to four and a half million)</li> <li>did not experience industrial revolution in the Victorian age</li> <li>devastating famine in the 1840s due to failed potato crop (peasant population depended on one source of food)</li> <li>lots of people emigrated to Britain, the Americas and Australia</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
American Colonies	1607	1776		
Australia	1788	1942		
Burma	1824	1948		
Canada	1763	1931		
Egypt	1882	1954		
Hong Kong	1842	1997		
India (including Pakistan and Bangladesh)	1609	1947		
Ireland	1600s	1922		
Jamaica	1655	1962		
Kenya	1888	1963		
Malaysia	1786	1957		
New Zealand	1769	1947		
Nigeria	1901	1960		
Sri Lanka	1815	1948		
Somaliland	1884	1960		
South Africa	1815	1931		
Sudan	1898	1956		
Uganda	1888	1962		
Zimbabwe	1890	1965		

1. Where did Britain mainly want to increase its influence in Victorian times?  
a) in America      b) in Africa      c) in Australia      d) in Ireland
2. How many people lived in the British Empire?  
a) 14 million      b) 100 million      c) 450 million      d) 41 million
3. Why did people move from countryside to cities?  
a) they wanted to go to the colonies      b) Queen Victoria told them to  
c) housing conditions were better      d) they wanted to work in factories
4. Which country was called “the jewel in the crown”?  
a) India      b) New Zealand      c) Nigeria      d) South Africa
5. What happened with the population of Ireland in Victorian times?  
a) it almost doubled      b) it almost halved      c) it stayed the same
6. What fraction of the Earth’s land surface belonged to the British Empire?  
a) a half      b) one third      c) one quarter      d) one fifth
7. What resource was available in the Black Country?  
a) gold      b) iron      c) coal      d) cotton
8. What did Dr David Livingstone try to do?  
a) establish new colonies      b) escape from the British Empire  
c) find the source of the River Nile      d) find gold
9. What was the main crop in Ireland during Victorian times?  
a) potato      b) wheat      c) rice      d) carrot
10. Which of these was never a British colony?  
a) Uganda      b) Burma      c) Malaysia      d) Algeria