

Role cards

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

Born in Bombay in India, Kipling came to England to study and then returned to India as a journalist. He is famous for his children's stories and poems set in India (e.g. the *Just so* stories). He returned to England in 1896.

Joseph Conrad (1836-1914)

Born in Poland, Conrad worked for the British merchant (trading) navy for 16 years and travelled around the Empire. He wrote dark stories about the exotic places he saw, which captivated people's imaginations.

Joseph Chamberlain (1836-1914)

A successful businessman who became a politician. Chamberlain was famous for arguing that Britain should keep Ireland in its Empire. He also wanted the countries in the Empire to trade mostly with each other, and not with other countries.

William Byrd (1674-1744)

A plantation owner who managed many slaves. Byrd was born in Virginia, but studied in England. When he returned to America, he founded the city of Virginia. He travelled around America and wrote many stories and diaries, which became famous.

Walter Raleigh (1552-1618)

An adventurer, poet and courtier to Elizabeth I. Raleigh was given permission to explore Virginia (named after the 'Virgin' Queen!) and founded England's first colony in America.

Sir Francis Drake (1540-1596)

An Elizabethan sailor and navigator. Drake was the first to sail the around the world. He travelled on the Golden Hind to South America and attacked the Spanish colonies there. He also sailed to the West Indies and Florida, picking up the unsuccessful colonists from Roanoke on his way back.

General Charles Gordon (1833-1885)

A military man who became known as 'Chinese Gordon' when he helped a Chinese emperor to defeat a rebellion. He later spent time in Africa, mapping the Nile and building stations along it. As governor-general of Egypt, he put down rebellions and suppressed the slave trade. In 1885 Gordon went to rescue Egyptian soldiers trapped in the city of Khartoum (in nearby Sudan). He was killed and called a hero and a martyr in Britain. He also got a new nickname: Gordon of Khartoum.

Lord Horatio Kitchener (1850-1916)

Born in Ireland, Kitchener was a military man. He took part in the failed attempt to rescue Charles Gordon in Khartoum in 1884-5 and fought to take Sudan for the British. He became a hero. He fought against the Boers (Dutch settlers) in South Africa and took up military roles in India, Egypt and Sudan. In 1914 he became the leader of the British army during the First World War.

John Henry Budden (1813-1890)

A missionary who spent most of his life in Almora, Uttar Pradesh (India). His family worked there for 80 years and founded many schools and medical centres.

Robert Caldwell (1814-1891)

A Scottish missionary who preached Christianity to the very poorest people in Tinnevely – the southernmost, and one of the hottest, districts of India. He became very well acquainted with Tamil people, history, language and culture and wrote a lot about them. He converted many villages to Christianity and is still remembered in India with a statue at Chennai. A postage stamp with his face was produced in 2010.

Lord Curzon (1881-1925)

A Conservative MP, Curzon spent more time travelling than doing his work. He became the Viceroy of India (the highest post there) but was pushed out after seven years because he fell out with other British civil servants there.

Captain Arthur Phillip (1738-1814)

The first governor of New South Wales in Australia. He set up the first colony of prisoners who had been 'transported' to Australia from Britain as punishment for various crimes.

Mary Kingsley (1862-1900)

An explorer and author who travelled to Africa collecting rare specimens for the British Museum. She wrote about her exotic adventures and became very famous. She criticised missionaries for trying to change Africans and said that black people were equal to white people. She died in 1900 from typhoid fever while working as a nurse during the Boer War.

Mary Seacole (1805-1881)

Born in Jamaica to a Scottish father and a Jamaican mother, Mary Seacole travelled all around the Caribbean – to Cuba, Haiti, the Bahamas, Central America, and to Britain. In 1854 she asked to work as a nurse in the Crimean War but was refused, and therefore travelled there herself. She became famous for her bravery and kindness.

Marianne North (1830-1890)

A painter who travelled widely, documenting many exotic plants. She went to both North and South America, many parts of Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Between 1871 and 1886 she travelled to every continent on the planet.

Queen Victoria (1819-1901)

Became Queen in 1837. In 1877 Victoria also took the title Empress of India. The Empire grew during her reign and also included Canada, Australia, New Zealand and large parts of Africa.

Duleep Singh (1838-1893)

A Sikh prince who was made to sign a treaty giving Britain more power in India when he was eight years old. He was then educated by British teachers. Aged 15 he asked to become a Christian and soon left to live in Britain. He lived a very lavish lifestyle and was good friends with the Queen. They fell out when she would not give him money and Duleep Singh tried to start a rebellion in India. He failed and had to apologise to Britain when he was penniless and helpless at the end of his life.

William Carey (1761-1834)

A missionary who worked in India and translated the Bible into Bengali, Sanskrit and many other local languages. He campaigned with some Indians to end the Indian custom of widow burning (where a widow had to throw herself onto the funeral pyre of her husband).

David Livingstone (1813-1873)

Scottish missionary and one of the greatest explorers. Livingstone travelled into the interior of Africa to introduce people to Christianity and free them from slavery. He filled many gaps in Western knowledge of Africa and publicised the horrors of slavery. He became a national hero.

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

A British composer who is most famous for *Land of Hope and Glory*. This music is almost like a second national anthem in England. Elgar's music was very popular and many felt it reflected the confidence and pride they had in having an Empire.

Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917)

Moved to Britain from India to work for the first Indian company here and then set up his own Indian cotton company. Naoroji became a British MP. He said that the Empire had had a positive and negative effect on India. He praised Britain's contribution to education, its preservation of law and order, its establishment of a railway system and its development of valuable products such as tea and silk.

Lord Mayo (1822-1872)

Ruled India with 5,000 officials on Queen Victoria's behalf. He called the Indians an 'inferior race'. The British Raj (the Indian word 'raj' means 'rule') governed 300 million Indians. Many British soldiers were brought in after a rebellion made Britain worry that it was losing control.

Lord Baden Powell (1857-1941)

A soldier in the British Army who became a national hero during Britain's war against the Boers in South Africa. He wanted Britain's boys to grow up into strong and active citizens who would be able to defend the British Empire. He set up the Boy Scout movement in 1907. In 1910 the Girl Guide movement was formed. Scouting soon spread across the British Empire.

John Henry Lefroy (1817-1890)

A military man and explorer. Lefroy became famous for his scientific work about magnetic fields. He travelled around Canada and is still famous there today. In later life he was the governor of Bermuda, and then of Tasmania.

Hugh Fisher (1867-1945)

An official photographer who was paid to travel around the British Empire between 1907 and 1910 to take photographs of railways, hospitals and schools being built, English being taught, and British sports being played. These were then shown to children in large slide shows. The aim was to make children feel proud to be citizens of the British Empire.

Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902)

A British politician and businessman. Rhodes was the head of the huge De Beers diamond mining company. When gold was found in South Africa in 1886, Rhodes invaded and created a new colony, which he named 'Rhodesia' (today this is called Zimbabwe). He also tried to conquer the Dutch settlers (the 'Boers') of Transvaal.

Captain James Cook (1728-1779)

Originally from Scotland, James Cook joined the British Navy on the English coast. He rose through the ranks and was asked to captain a ship called the 'Endeavour' on a voyage of discovery. He took scientists, astronomers, botanists and artists to explore the Pacific Ocean and look for the mysterious 'Terra Australis Incognita' or 'unknown southern land'. When Cook landed in Australia, it reminded him of Wales, so he called it New South Wales. He planted a British flag and claimed the territory for Britain. Cook went on two more voyages, but was killed by a local tribesman in Hawaii in 1779.

Khudadad Khan (1888-1971)

Won a Victoria Cross (VC) for fighting for the British in the First World War. Khan was born in what is now Pakistan. He won his VC after he was wounded, fought off a German attack with only his rifle, and managed to get back to the trenches after being left for dead. During the First World War there was lots of enthusiasm for helping Britain defeat Germany as thousands of Indians, Canadians, New Zealanders, South Africans, Australians and West Indians decided to 'do their bit'. Khan was one of about 1.4 million Indian soldiers in the British Army.

Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)

Prime Minister of Britain in 1868 and 1874. Born to Italian-Jewish parents, Disraeli was a Conservative politician who was a firm favourite of Queen Victoria. She approved of his imperialism and agreed to take the title Empress of India in 1877 at his suggestion. He was also responsible for acquiring the Suez Canal (a canal passage through Egypt which allowed easier access to Britain's Asian Empire).

An East India Company trader

The East India Company was set up in 1600 to run all of the trade with India. Ships sailed full of cheap British goods, and swapped them for goods in countries as far away as Japan and China. Then they brought the fine china, silk, coffee and spices back to Britain to sell for a huge profit. Both the businessmen in charge of the company, and the local kings and queens to whom they paid taxes, made a fortune from this trade.

Teaching notes

This active learning activity is an ideal introduction to a series of lessons on the British Empire. The characters that are introduced can be returned to as the unit progresses.

To get the students in the mood you could play *Land of Hope and Glory* as students enter the classroom.

Starter suggestion

Show a map of the Empire (a lovely version from 1897 is available at http://www.victorianschool.co.uk/documents/British_Empire_1897%20PD.jpg).

The following questions could be discussed as a class:

- What was the extent of the Empire in 1897?
- What does the phrase 'the sun never set on the British Empire' mean?
- Why might a map like this be produced?

If relevant to your class, you could also refer back to the Roman Empire and the problems it faced as it expanded.

Main activity

There are 30 role cards for this activity. Each student takes on the role of an 'Empire builder'. They need to memorise their character, then move around the room and meet some other Empire builders (you may find it easiest if you move desks at this point to clear some space!).

- For each person they talk to, they need to find out:
 - who they are
 - which **country** in the empire they are connected to (they can refer to the map!)
 - **how** they helped the empire to grow.
- They should also consider the **similarities and differences** between the people they meet.
- Each student should mingle with **at least five** other Empire builders.

Active learning

- Ask your 'Empire builders' to arrange themselves into groups with others they are most similar to. Discuss:
 - What are the similarities between them?
 - What makes them different?
 - Which people have been hard to categorise? Why is this?
- Get your 'Empire builders' to line up in order of who they think was the most influential.
 - Discuss what criteria they applied to make this judgment.

Homework suggestion

Students could further research 'their' Empire builder and create a display poster with a picture, brief description and short quotations (ideally real, but possibly imagined) about what he or she thinks about the British Empire.