The British Empire Fact Sheet

Use the correct form of the verbs in the box to complete the information sheet. Use each verb exactly once.

BAN	**FREE**	**TAKE**
CONTROL	**BASE**	**FOUND**
EXCHANGE	**SHIP**	**LOCATE**
LOSE	**USE**	

The British Empire went through two big phases.

The first phase **(A)** _____ on colonies in the Americas (including the West Indies). Britain was a major slave-trade nation during this time, but most British people did not see slaves because they **(B)** _____ to the Americas, not usually to Britain.

First, trade goods and weapons **(C)** _____ to Africa. These **(D)** _____ for slaves to work on the plantations of America and the West Indies. And the money from selling the slaves **(E)** _____ to buy sugar, tobacco, cotton and other goods for Europe. This is the *slave triangle*. (Three trading destinations, so three points of the triangle.)

The buying and selling of slaves **(F)** _____ in the Empire in 1807, and all slaves **(G)** _____ in 1833 (more than 30 years before the Americans did the same).

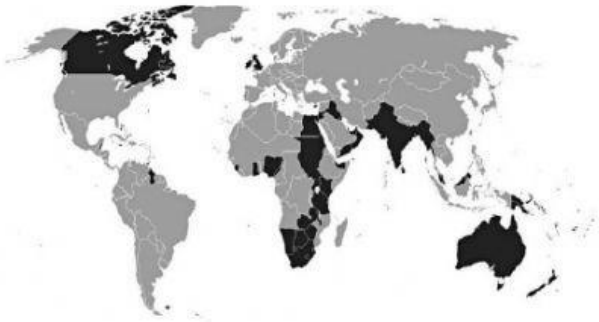
After the American colonies **(H)** _____ in the American Revolutionary War, British attention shifted to India and Africa. Important goods from these countries included tea, spices, opium, silk, cotton and gold.

"The empire where the sun never sets" **(I)** _____ by private companies. In the early 19th century, for example, much of India **(J)** _____ by the East India Company and its private army of 260,000 soldiers. The company's cruelty was so bad that the British government took over in the 1850s.

Even now, the UK still owns 14 sovereign territories, called the British Overseas Territories. Most are very, very tiny (the Pitcairn Islands, for example, have a population of 50), but they **(K)** _____ all around the world – so *technically* the sun has still not set on the British Empire.

Age of Empires (2)

Compare your map with the real one. Did you get the size and extent right? What was different from your expectations?



LIVEWORKSHEETS