

# UNIT 8 BRITISH EMPIRE

## 2. A global power



The British empire, 1898

### 1 a. Read the first paragraph.

Underline the names of countries that were part of the British Empire.

At the start of Queen Victoria's reign, Britain already governed large areas of countries such as India, Canada, and Australia. By the end of her reign and driven by the need to find new markets, the British Empire had become the largest the world had ever seen. For the Victorians, India symbolised the Empire. The Queen called it 'the jewel in the crown'. In 1876 she was proclaimed 'Empress of India'.

Britain imported raw materials such as cotton, tea and sugar and exported manufactured goods like cotton cloth, locomotives and machine tools to the colonies. The colonies created jobs for many British people. The British built railways, roads, bridges, factories and government buildings, all in the Victorian style, and brought the British lifestyle and language to the world. The expanding empire also offered lots of opportunity for explorers to discover new regions and to preach Christianity to the natives. Perhaps the most famous explorer was David Livingstone.

Victoria		1837-1901	
<b>Crimson War</b> 1854	<b>Southern Africa</b> 1855	<b>India</b> 1876	<b>The Scramble for Africa</b> 1881-1919
Florence Nightingale was asked to organise a team of nurses to attend the soldiers.	Dr Livingstone discovered the Victoria Falls.	Queen Victoria was declared Empress of India.	Colonies in Africa: from Cairo to Cape Town. 1899-1902 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Boer War: the British conquered South Africa.

### b. Read the first paragraph. Tick the correct answers.

What period is the author writing about?

1837-1901

Queen Victoria's reign

What was the main reason for expanding the empire?

global supremacy

finding new markets

India was nicknamed 'the 'jewel in the crown'. Why?

Because there were a lot of precious stones out there.

Because it was the most precious colony of the empire.

### c. Read the second paragraph. Tick the correct information in the table according to the text.

What Britain imported from the colonies	What Britain exported to the colonies
cotton	cotton
tea	tea
sugar	sugar
cotton cloth	cotton cloth
locomotives	locomotives
machines	machines
metal tools	metal tools

### d. Tick the correct answers according to the whole text.

What did the British do in the colonies?

They built railways.

They built roads.

They built bridges.

They built factories.

They built government buildings.

They brought the English language.

They created jobs.

What are the two advantages of having an expanding empire?

New regions were discovered.

The notion of democracy was developed in those regions.