



COLONIALISM

“Just as a man would not cherish living in a body other than his own, so do nations not like to live under other nations, however noble and great the latter may be.”

Mahatma Gandhi (1869 – 1948), Indian anti-colonial activist

1. Colonialism Discussion

1. What is colonialism? Does your country have a historical connection with colonialism?
2. What did you learn about colonialism at school? Do you think schools teach enough about colonialism?
3. What were the effects of colonialism on the indigenous populations of the colonies?
4. How did colonisation change the demographics of colonial lands?
5. Are there any colonies that still exist today?
6. What do you know about Christopher Columbus? Is he a hero or villain? Should Columbus Day be celebrated? What would the Americas be like if it hadn't been for his journey?
7. How did colonies gain their independence? Why did many gain independence after 1945?
8. What is colonial architecture? Do you like it? Can you think of any examples?

2. Colonialism Vocabulary

- **empire, imperialism** (nouns) – *a number of territories controlled by a single monarch, autocrat or sovereign nation; the policy of extending a country's power over other territories.*
- **to colonise** (BrE), **colonize** (AmE) (verb), **colonialism, colony, colonist** (nouns) – *to exert control over a foreign territory either to settle or to exploit economically; an individual territory controlled by a foreign power; a person who moves from the colonising country to live in a colony.*
- **to settle** (verb), **settler** (noun) – *to move to live in another area permanently; a person who settles in another country or territory.*
- **settler colonialism** (noun) – *colonialism based on the settlement of people from the colonising country.*
- **exploitation/extraction colonialism** (noun) – *colonialism enforced by coercion, military force, slavery, or other means with the intention of exploiting the people or natural resources of the territory.*
- **neocolonialism** (noun) – *the use of economic, political or other means to exert influence over foreign territories in the modern day.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. After the Dutch East India Company established a colony in the southern cape of Africa, thousands of Dutch farmers **settled** in the area.
2. Western nations were met with accusations of **neocolonialism** after tying aid and economic assistance to strict political and economic conditions that would interfere with the domestic policies of developing countries.
3. Largescale emigration from Britain, Germany and Norway to the North American colonies is an example of **settler colonialism**.
4. The British Empire officially **colonised** India in 1858 to control the spice trade.
5. The enslavement of the indigenous population in Latin America in order to work for the Spanish is an example of **exploitation colonialism**.
6. The Roman **Empire** spread to Britain in the north, Spain in the west, Egypt in the south and the Holy Lands in the east.

Colonialism vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Which empires can you think of from history?
2. What motivated countries to build empires or establish colonies?
3. In which colonies did large numbers of Europeans settle?
4. Can you think of any other examples of settler colonialism?
5. Can you think of any examples of exploitation colonialism?
6. Which countries are involved in neocolonialism today? What are they doing?

3. Video: History vs Columbus

You are going to watch a video by TED Ed called "History vs Christopher Columbus."

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishtpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-colonialism/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

- Where is Christopher Columbus' journey not celebrated?
a) *The United States* b) *Latin America* **c) Africa**
- When was Columbus Day first celebrated?
a) 1791 **b) 1792** c) 1793
- When was Columbus Day declared an official holiday?
a) 1934 b) 1944 c) 1954
- When Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492, which modern day territory was he trying to find?
a) *The United States* b) *The West Indies* **c) India**

Sentence completion

- People had known the world was **round** since the time of Aristotle.
- Columbus wasn't the first European to visit the Americas as the Vikings had already settled there **500** years before.
- When Columbus first arrived in the colonies, he imprisoned and enslaved the first **natives** he met.
- Many descendants of Native Americans who were nearly wiped out and forced into reservations still suffer from **poverty** and **discrimination** today.

Short answer

- Columbus tortured natives who didn't bring enough what? **Gold**
- How many people died from war, slavery and the mines during Columbus' rule over the colonies?
Over 3 million
- Which cultures does 'Día De La Raza' celebrate in some Latin American countries? **Native and mixed**
- The way we keep traditions alive says a lot about our what? **Values**

4. Colonialism Conversation Questions

1. What are the modern-day effects of colonialism? What effect has colonialism had on the economies of former colonies?
2. How did the actions of the colonial powers affect the political and economic culture of former colonies?
3. Why have many former colonies found it difficult to develop their economies?
4. Should former colonial powers provide economic assistance to their ex-colonies? Why or why not?
5. Should indigenous people be given land back that was taken by European colonists?
6. A poll found that 59% of British people think the British Empire is something to be proud of. How does that make you feel?
7. Was there anything good to come out of colonialism?
8. How would the world be different if there had been no colonies or empires?

5. Colonialism Writing Task

Write about your opinion of colonialism. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Which countries were involved, and what they did.
- How colonialism affected indigenous populations.
- The effect colonialism has had on the modern world.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people argue that Columbus Day should be celebrated to remember where they came from, and how their countries came to be formed. Other people say Columbus Day should not be celebrated due to its association with colonialism, slavery and the fate of native populations. Which side do you agree with?