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Chapter 8: The Commonwealth of Nations

Quick Notes



Section 1: A Brief History of British Colonization

➤ Essential Question:

- How is the United Kingdom viewed by the world?

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Section 1: A Brief History of British Colonization

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- French and Indian War

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A Brief History of British Colonization

- The mid-1600s saw a number of English colonies in the western hemisphere.
- Georgia was one of the original British colonies in 1733, with Canada joining in 1763, thanks to the **French and Indian War**, and Australia in 1788.
- The United Kingdom lost a large part of its empire in 1776 when the United States announced their independence.

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A Brief History of British Colonization

- Many colonies fought for independence over the years, but colonies like Canada and Australia would gain their independence peacefully.
 - Countries who gained their independence peacefully tend to have stronger ties with the UK today.
- The British Empire remained until the aftermath of World War II, when the United Kingdom gave independence to most of their colonies.
 - The United Kingdom could no longer support its empire.

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Great Britain versus United Kingdom

- An important note about names is that some can be geographical and others can be political.
- Great Britain is the largest island in the British Isles.
- The United Kingdom refers to the countries of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
 - The different countries have different cultures, histories, and identities, which explains why they are all still individual.

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Section 2: British Culture Abroad

- Essential Question:
 - How did the native peoples in the colonies feel about British culture?

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Section 2: British Culture Abroad

- What terms do I need to know?
 - indigenous
 - assimilate

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British Culture Abroad

- As the British traveled the world and colonized, they would force their culture upon the **indigenous** (native) people in many cases to make them conform.
 - For example, English is spoken in most countries that were once colonies.
- Many colonies were formed from large groups of immigrants settling to claim land.
 - These colonists would try to **assimilate** (absorb into their cultural tradition) native peoples, but the British culture they brought with them was usually overwhelming.

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Section 3: The British Commonwealth

- Essential Question:
 - What are the benefits of being a member of the British Commonwealth?

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Section 3: Government of the United Kingdom

- What terms do I need to know?
 - British Commonwealth
 - Commonwealth Games

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The British Commonwealth

- Almost all members of the **British Commonwealth** were once British colonies.
- The land area of the Commonwealth is almost equal to a quarter (1/4) of the Earth.
- The British monarch is the head of the Commonwealth and also the head of state in 16 Commonwealth countries.
- There are rules to joining the Commonwealth:
 - Countries must have equal rights within their country.
 - They must agree with the Commonwealth's position in unity, peace, equality, and free trade.
- A country can join or leave at any time, and membership can be suspended if a country has violated any of the ideals.

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The British Commonwealth

- There are 52 countries that are part of the Commonwealth.
 - Some countries include South Africa, India, Pakistan, and Jamaica.
- Today there are even two member countries that were never part of the British Empire: Rwanda and Mozambique.
- There are many benefits to being a Commonwealth member:
 - Having diplomatic relationships with other member nations.
 - While it is not a free trade organization, many members do enjoy increased trade.
 - Another benefit is participation in the Commonwealth Games, which are similar to the Olympics and are held every 4 years in different cities.

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