

## GEOGRAPHY ACTIVITY 4: INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

### Learning Objectives

- To understand economic activity, particularly trade links between countries;
- To use the internet to research;
- To present material gathered in research.

### Resources

- Internet
- A3 paper and coloured pens
- Computers/books for students
- *Optional – copy of the blank map in activity 1 – students might find it useful when creating their posters*

### Countries of the British Empire at the start of WWI:

Canada	
Nigeria	South Africa
Egypt Sudan	Australia
Kuwait	New Zealand
Bahrain	Oman
British Somalia	Virgin Islands
Kenya	Caribbean
Uganda	Malta
Northern Rhodesia southern	Cyprus
Malaysia	Half of Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands
Brunei	

### Prior Learning

If you did Activity 3, this would be a good extension, otherwise it can stand alone.

### Starter

1. Put the words export and import on the board. What do they mean?
2. Ask students to brainstorm what they think comes to us from India, and what we send there.

### Introduction

Explain to the students that they will be researching a country from the British Empire and its exports, and how these have changed over time. They will look at India first as an example.

### MAIN TASKS

1. Ask students to watch [THIS CLIP](#) on India's exports from the BBC, and add to their notes on what is exported and imported. What groups of products are there? How has this changed over time? Explain that India was very important to England because of its trade.

2. Students choose a country (you could have the list below on the board and students get into pairs and tick off the one they want to do), research their country and create a poster in pairs showing:
  - What is exported;
  - What geographical features enable the country to grow these products;
  - What the products are used to make or used for;
  - Trade routes and their location on a map;
  - Types of transport and the advantages and disadvantages of it;
  - Is it different today from how it was at the start of the First World War?
  - If students haven't done Activity 3, you could also include finding out about the country's topography and climate here.
3. Put the posters up around the classroom. Students go around and find out about each others' countries. (or, if they haven't done Activity 3 or they are doing the lessons together as a project, they could present their poster along with the other things they have produced).

### **Extension Idea**

Students find out about the UK's exports and imports, and compare their country with the UK. They could write a paragraph explaining the differences.

### **Review**

We no longer have the British Empire, but we do have the Commonwealth. What is it? What is it for? Why do you think a country would want to be part of it? Can a country join it today (yes!)?

**(Note** – The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 31 countries, headquarters in London, Queen is the Head, English the common language because most countries were ruled by Britain, opposes racism and encourages democracy and education).

You could also discuss the Commonwealth Games and what they stand for.