

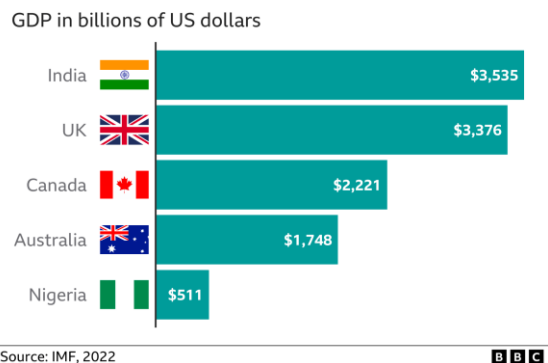
The Commonwealth

This term, we will explore the end of the British Empire and the establishment of the Commonwealth. We will learn about all the changes in political parties, who are leading Britain and we will conclude by noting how life for Britons has improved throughout the history of the British Isles. We will learn about how Britain became diverse through learning by answering the following questions:

What is the commonwealth?

- Countries from the Empire joined together, in the spirit of friendship to create a mutually beneficial Commonwealth of Nations. The British Monarch is recognised as the symbolic head of the Commonwealth.
- The members have no legal or formal obligation to one another; they are held together by shared traditions, institutions, and experiences as well as by economic self-interest.
- Commonwealth action is based upon consultation between members. Each member country sends an emissary, called a high commissioner, to the capitals of the other members.
- Britain evolved into a multicultural society with immigration from many Commonwealth countries.
- During WWII Commonwealth, Colonial and Imperial Indian forces, totalling close to 15 million serving men and women, fought the Axis armies, air-forces and navies across Europe, Africa, Asia.

Biggest economies in the Commonwealth



Key Vocabulary

- Commonwealth:** Group of former British colonies cooperating for common benefit.
- Sovereign:** Ruler, such as monarch or head of state.
- Traditions:** Customs or beliefs passed down within a society.
- Mutual benefit:** Agreement where all parties benefit.
- Commissioner:** Official responsible for overseeing a specific area.
- Ambassador:** Official representative of a country promoting relationships with others.
- Houses of Parliament:** UK's legislative buildings consisting of Commons and Lords.

How did immigration from the Commonwealth help to rebuild Britain following WW2?

- In 1948 The British Nationality Act was passed by the British government. It confirms that people from all of Britain's colonies can come and settle in Britain
- Between 1947 and 1971 at least 300 000 people from the Caribbean settled in Britain. These people are called the 'Windrush Generation'
- NHS and London Transport recruit people from the Caribbean to come to Britain to work for them
- They helped the economy by working for the RAF, London Transport, Royal Mail and the NHS. They also worked in Britain's coal mines, on the railways, in entertainment and in many other industries.
- Many of the Windrush Generation experienced prejudice from some of the British population, sometimes leading to physical attacks and race riots
- In 1958 the Race Relations Act was passed to address racial discrimination for the first time.

Which parties have been in charge over the last century, and what significant changes to laws have been democratically achieved?

- The people control law through democracy and choosing Ministers., who serve the people. Votes for women introduced and can become members of parliament.
- Society's views towards single sex relationships have changed, with equal rights being finally achieved in 2020.
- Society's views towards the use of the death penalty changed.
- The NHS was established to ensure that all British citizens could access free health care. This is funded through Taxes. The NHS was vital in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Britain continued to build infrastructure to support travel.
- Energy production and the harvesting of natural resources has been important to sustain a growing population.
- Parliament privatised national industries
- Britain has been part of the EU and has now left.
- In 1965, The Race Relations Act was passed to address racial discrimination for the first time.

Key Vocabulary

Democracy: System of government where power held by the people.
Election: Process of choosing representatives or deciding on issues.
Equality: State of being equal in rights, opportunities, and treatment.
Privatisation: Transfer of public assets to private sector ownership/control.
National industries: Industries owned and operated by a particular nation.
Engineering: Application of science/math to design/build structures/systems.
Economy: System of production, distribution, and consumption of goods/services.
Industry: Sector of economic activity such as manufacturing or agriculture.

Home Learning Project

Reflect and compare modern life to your historical knowledge about life in one of the following times in Britain: Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Norman, Tudor and Victorian England.

Think about our modern day justice system, police, laws, elections, organisation and operation of elected ministers and Parliament.

Present your research in a fact file, report or Powerpoint.

Return your home learning on Monday 3rd June.

How is life in today's Britain different from life for our ancestors?

- Scientific advances enabled DNA to be discovered and the first 'test tube baby' to be born and significant health related research and development of medical treatments to benefit people.
- Britain is a diverse, multicultural society. Individual's beliefs, values and choice are enshrined in law. Education, health and social care are integral to society. The aspiration for equality for individuals to learn, thrive and live healthy economically productive lives.
- Religious mix of Britain evolved as immigration, post war, increased. Britain became multicultural with many religions and beliefs shaping society today.



The Commonwealth Flag