



UNTOLD STORIES – Stories of The Victorians

Teachers notes

Slide 1	Learning in context to previous lesson. Discuss where this lesson falls within context of timeline. Children to understand where this falls within history.
Slide 2- 3	To show the Map of commonwealth countries during the Victorian era and the change within 200 hundred years. Children to infer why changes occurred? Discuss how empires grow and what the implications would be for countries effected.
Slide 4	Opportunity for children to share prior knowledge of life in Britain in Victorian era.
Slide 5-6	Children to watch video and ask questions about Fanny Eaton.
Slide 6-8	Children to watch video and discuss knowledge of Mary Seacole. (Children may discuss Florence Nightingale and her legacy too)
Slide 9-11	Information slides about Sarah Forbes Bonetta
Slide 12	As a class come up with similarities and difference between these womens lives in Britain. Important to discuss how it was different for woman from white backgrounds.
Slide 13	Children to create creative biography of chosen women, through answering the big question.

The Victorians



1500



1600

1700

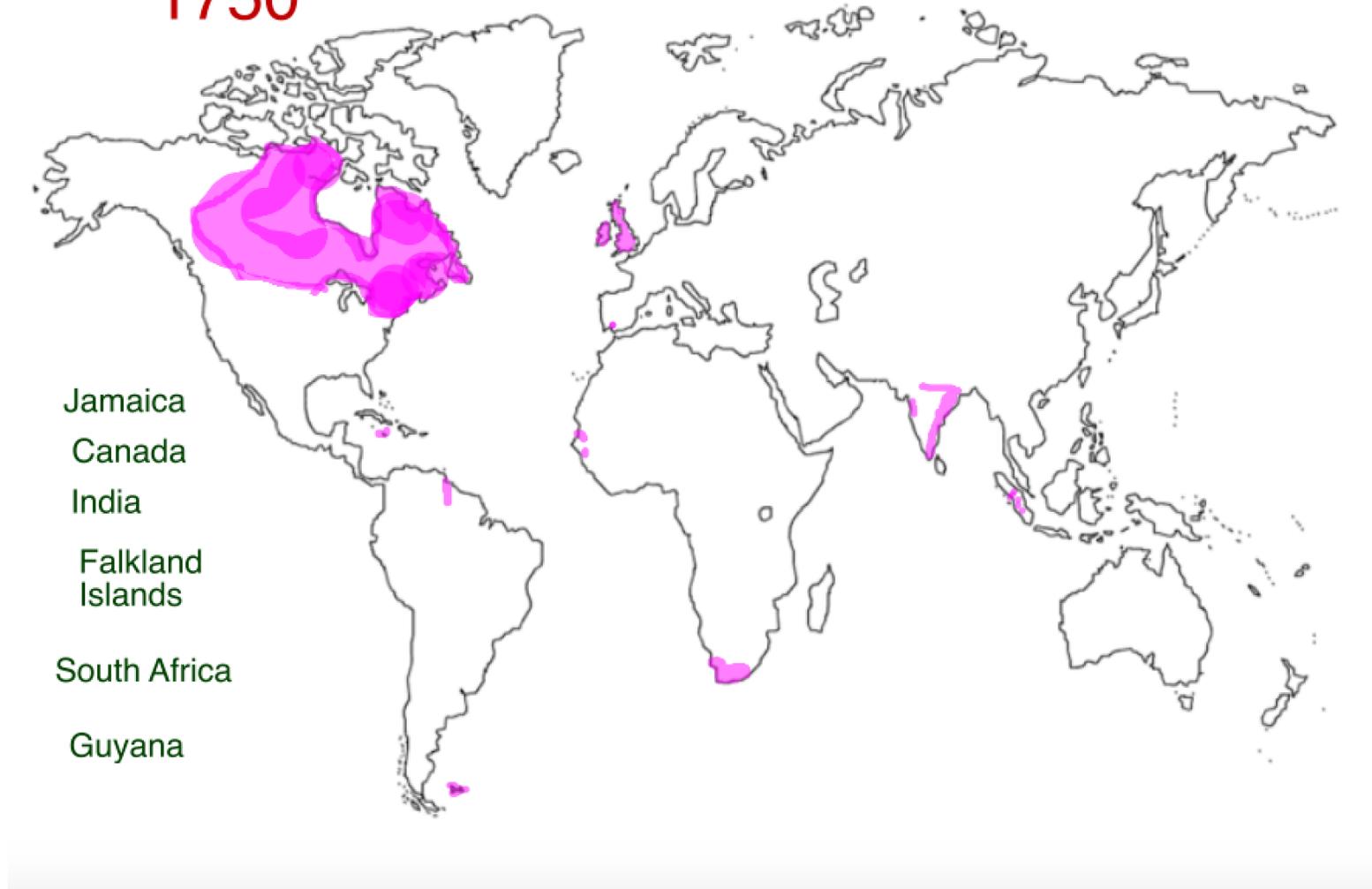


1800



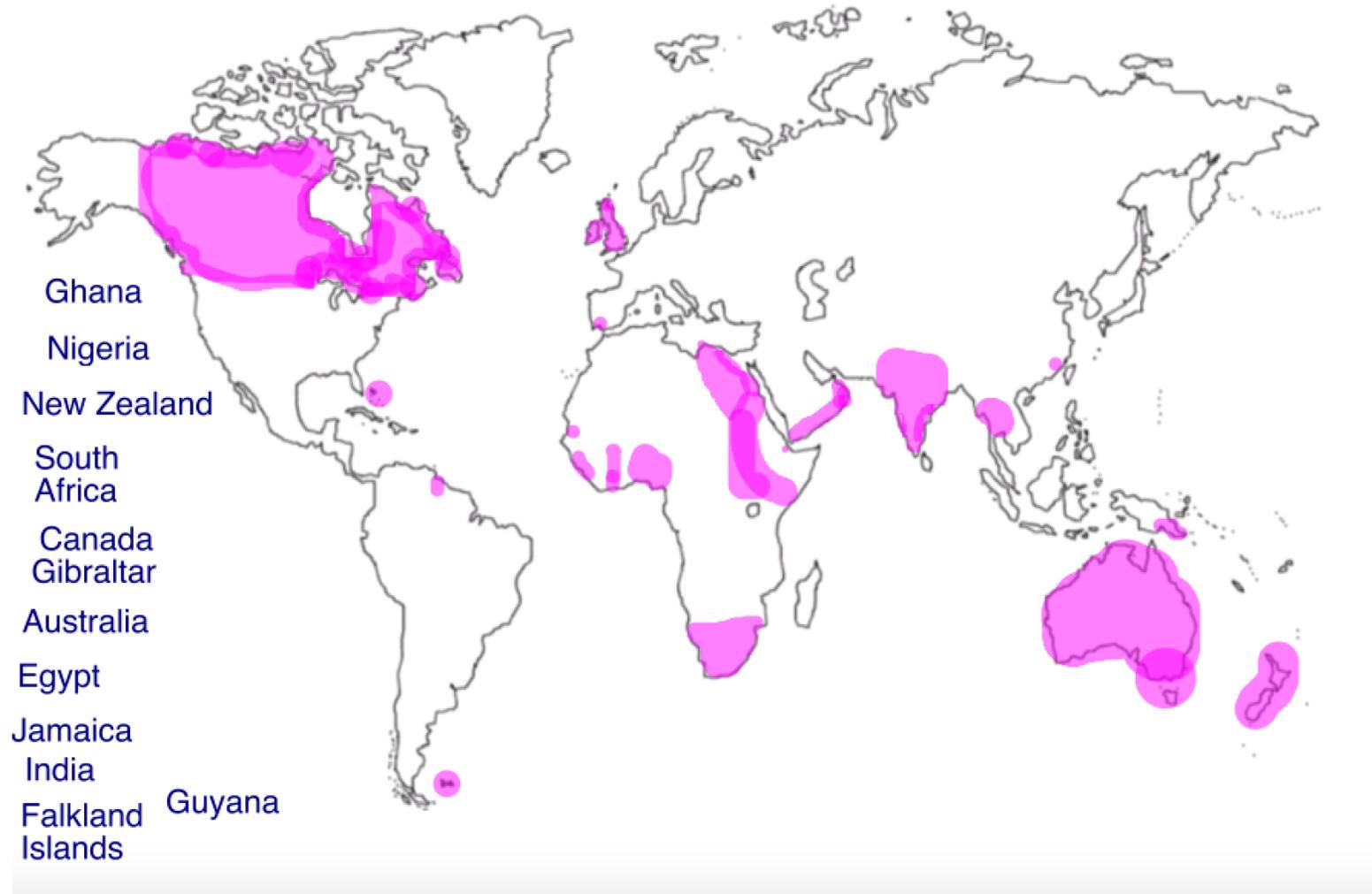
1900

The British Empire in 1750



Jamaica
Canada
India
Falkland
Islands
South Africa
Guyana

The British Empire in 1900





What was life like in Britain in the Victorian Era?





Fanny Eaton

(1835-1934)

Beauty

and

Elegance

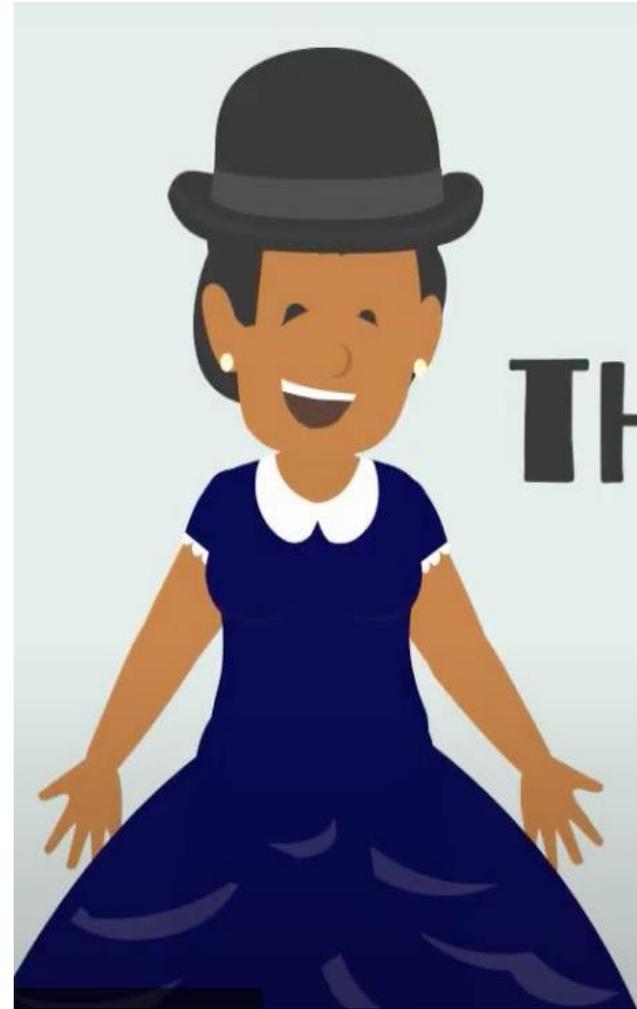


<https://youtu.be/uo01gaqAih8>



Mary Seacole

(1801-1881)



THE STORY OF MARY SEACOLE

ICONIC WOMEN IN BRITAIN

https://youtu.be/M6FJoTn_3L8

Seacole was an inveterate traveller, and before her marriage visited other parts of the Caribbean, including Cuba, Haiti and the Bahamas, as well as Central America and Britain. On these trips she complemented her knowledge of traditional medicine with European medical ideas. In 1854, Seacole travelled to England again, and approached the War Office, asking to be sent as an army nurse to the Crimea where there was known to be poor medical facilities for wounded soldiers. She was refused. Undaunted Seacole funded her own trip to the Crimea where she established the British Hotel near Balaklava to provide 'a mess-table and comfortable quarters for sick and convalescent officers'. She also visited the battlefield, sometimes under fire, to nurse the wounded, and became known as 'Mother Seacole'. Her reputation rivalled that of Florence Nightingale.

One soldier wrote in his memoirs: "She was a wonderful woman, all the men swore by her, and in case of any malady, would seek her advice and use her herbal medicines in preference to reporting themselves to their own doctors. That she did affect some cure is beyond doubt, and her never failing presence amongst the wounded after a battle and assisting them".





Sarah Forbes Bonetta

(1843-1880)

At the age of five, Sarah Forbes Bonetta Davies, born into a Royal, West African dynasty, was taken to England and presented to Queen Victoria as a “gift” from one royal family to another. A unique and admired figure in history, she spent her life between the British royal household and her homeland in Africa.

Sarah Forbes Bonetta Davies, a West African Yoruba girl, was captured by the King of Dahomey in 1848 during a “slave-hunt” war in which her parents were killed. In 1850, when she was around eight years old, she was rescued by Captain Frederick E Forbes of the Royal Navy whilst he was visiting Dahomey as an emissary of the British Government. Forbes convinced King Ghezo of Dahomey to give Sarah to Queen Victoria saying: “She would be a present from the King of the Blacks to the Queen of the Whites.” The young girl was subsequently given the name Forbes as well as that of his ship, the ‘Bonetta’.

She returned to England with Forbes who presented her to Queen Victoria, who in turn gave her over to the Church Missionary Society to be educated. Sarah suffered from fragile health and in 1851 she returned to Africa to attend the Female Institution in Freetown, Sierra Leone. When she was 12 years old, Queen Victoria commanded that Sarah return to England, where she was placed under the charge of Mr and Mrs Schon at Chatham.



At the age of 18, Sarah received a proposal from James Pinson Labulo Davies, a 31 year old Yoruba businessman of considerable wealth who was living in Britain. She initially refused his proposal and it is reported that in order to persuade her to accept Sarah was sent to live with two elderly ladies in Brighton whose house she described as a “desolate little pig sty”.

The wedding party, which arrived from West Hill Lodge, Brighton in ten carriages and pairs of grays, was made up of White ladies with African gentlemen, and African ladies with White gentlemen. There were sixteen bridesmaids.

In his journal, Captain Frederick Forbes gave an account of his mission with relation to Miss Bonetta:

“She is a perfect genius; she now speaks English well, and has a great talent for music. She has won the affections, but with few exceptions, of all who have known her. She is far in advance of any white child of her age, in aptness of learning, and strength of mind and affection”.

Sarah had a daughter named Victoria Davies, who was presented to Queen Victoria. Upon the death of Sarah Forbes Bonetta, the Queen wrote in her diary: “Saw poor Victoria Davies, my black godchild, who learnt this morning of the death of her dear mother”.

So proud was Queen Victoria of Sarah’s daughter, that when she passed her music examination, teachers and children had one day holiday.



What was life like for Black British Women in the Victorian era?

Similarities

- They were all migrants
- They all married
- They were thought of as remarkable

Differences

- Mary Seacole was a nurse and mixed race

How did their lives challenge popular opinion?

- You are going to create a visual biography of one of these women.
- You can use a creative media of your choice; puppet pals, stop motion, Imovie
- How can you answer this question within your biography?
- When you are finished can you share your learning outside of school?
Can you share your video with a younger class?



Further research

<http://www.blackhistory4schools.com/1750-1900/>

<https://www.theblackcurriculum.com/download>

<https://www.black-history.org.uk/category/19th-century/>

<https://www.black-history.org.uk/19th-century/sarah-forbes-bonetta-1843-1880/>

<https://www.black-history.org.uk/19th-century/1857-mary-seacole-the-black-nurse/>

<https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/3871/victorian-britain-a-brief-history#:~:text=Important%20reforms%20included%20legislation%20on,the%20establishment%20of%20the%20police.>

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/real-stories/the-african-princess-sarah-forbes-bonetta/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/seacole_mary.shtml