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IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA

***Imperialism** is a national policy of dominating weaker nations and ruling outside territories. There have been many imperialist powers throughout history. But imperialism reached its peak from 1870 to 1914, when a few European nations colonized much of Asia and Africa.*

*In this lesson, you will concentrate on European imperialism in Africa. You will use a marker and **side A** of the **World** map.*

1. By 1914 almost all of Africa was carved up into colonies by a few European nations. Only three countries in all of Africa were independent.

- a. One of the free countries was Liberia, on Africa's west coast near the Equator. Circle Liberia's label on the map.
- b. Another free country was the Kingdom of Abyssinia, now called Ethiopia, in East Africa. Circle Ethiopia's label.
- c. The third free country was the Union of South Africa, at the southern end of Africa. Circle South Africa's label.

2. Italy had three African colonies.

- a. Find Italy and underline its label.
- b. Italy's major colonies were Libya, on the Mediterranean Sea; Eritrea, on the Red Sea; and Somalia, on the Indian Ocean. Mark each with an I (meaning "Italian possession").

3. France was one of the major colonial powers in Africa.

- a. Underline France's label on the map.
- b. France ruled French West Africa, which included much of the northwestern area. Show this by stretching the label FRENCH through the following countries, at about 20°N:
Mauritania Mali Niger Chad
- c. French West Africa also included the area southwest of your label. Show this with an F on the boundary between Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.
- d. France also ruled Algeria and most of Morocco, in North Africa. Mark an F on the boundary between these countries.

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e. French Equatorial Africa was a colony crossed by the Equator. Mark it by stretching the label FRENCH from Gabon across the Central African Republic.

f. Also mark an F on the large island of Madagascar.

4. Spain's African territories were relatively small.

a. Underline Spain's label.

b. Spain held the northern tip of Morocco. Mark an S where Morocco is closest to Spain.

c. Also mark an S on Western Sahara, next to Morocco.

5. The British were a major colonial power in 1914.

a. Underline the United Kingdom's label.

b. Mark UK on Nigeria, between your French labels.

c. Also mark UK on Ghana, which at that time was known as the Gold Coast. Ghana is west of Nigeria.

d. The British controlled much of East Africa. Start the label BRITISH in Egypt and stretch it south through Sudan and into Kenya.

e. The British also controlled much of southern Africa. Start the label BRITISH in Botswana and stretch it north through Zimbabwe and Zambia.

6. Portugal began to explore the African coast in the early 1400s. But by 1914 it controlled only three territories in Africa.

a. Underline Portugal's label.

b. Mark a P on Guinea-Bissau, a little north of Liberia.

c. Also mark Ps on Angola and Mozambique, both in southern Africa.

7. Germany competed with the United Kingdom in several areas.

a. Underline Germany's label.

b. Mark a G on Cameroon, a little north of the Equator. *west Coast*

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- c. Also mark a G on Namibia, which was then called German Southwest Africa.
- d. Mark another G on Tanzania, which was then called German East Africa.

8. Belgium had a single colony in equatorial Africa, but it was very large.

- a. Underline the abbreviated label for Belgium, which is next to Germany.
- b. Print BEL. on Zaire, then known as the Belgian Congo.

9. Use the map as you have marked it in answering the questions below.

a. Which were the only free countries in Africa in 1914?

b. Which seven European nations had colonies in Africa in 1914?

c. Which of these European imperialist powers had the smallest homeland?

★ d. Which two powers dominated Africa?

★ e. Which European language would you expect to be spoken in Algeria?

★10. Imagine the impact European imperialism had on the people of Africa. What would your reaction be if a foreign power took over your own country? Write a short journal entry expressing your feelings.



1. ^a How many European countries had African Colonies by 1914?

^b Name each country.

2. ^a Which 3 African Countries remained free?

^b Why do you believe that is?

3. Which European Power has the smallest homeland?

4. What were the two largest Colonial Powers?

5. Explain colonialism & imperialism. ^a How are they the same & ^b how are they different?



