By the time Britain became a great imperial power, it was no longer “England”, but rather “The United Kingdom of Great Britain”, encompassing the formerly independent kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Wales. In 1800, the colony of Ireland was absorbed into the United Kingdom, but without full rights for Catholic citizens. The population of Great Britain increased tremendously in the 18th and 19th century, and as the economy relied more and more on industry and commerce the great majority of the population growth was in cities. By 1900, many of the largest cities in Great Britain, especially in the northern industrial areas, had grown up from very small towns in only a few generations.

Islands:

- **Great Britain**: Largest British Isle, composed of England, Scotland, and Wales.
- **Ireland**: (Roman Hibernia) Large Island to the west of Great Britain.
- **Isle of Wright**: (Roman Vectis) Island off south England, near Portsmouth harbor.
- **Isle of Mann**: Island between Scotland and North Ireland.
- **Isle of Anglesey**: Island off the North coast of Wales.

Political Divisions:

- **Scotland**: Northern region of Great Britain.
- **England**: Southern region of Great Britain.
- **Wales**: Western region of Great Britain.
- **North Ireland**: North Ireland settled by British Protestants since 1600’s.

Cities:

- **Pre-Industrial**: London, Bristol, York, Norwich, Exeter, Edinburgh, Oxford
- **Post-Industrial**: Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds, Glasgow

Water Bodies:

- English Channel, Strait of Dover, North Sea, Irish Sea
- St. Georges Channel, The Wash, Bristol Channel

Maps:

- British Isles—Outline Map
- British Isles—Major Industries, 1900
- British Isles—Population Centers, 1911
**IRELAND**

*In the about 450 AD Ireland was converted to Christianity by St. Patrick, and for the next five hundred years, during the “Dark Ages”, dozens of Celtic missionaries proceeded from the monasteries of Ireland to pass on the faith in Scotland and Northern England. Although Ireland was briefly united in about 1000 under Brian Boru, it was governed by regional chiefs instead of a single king. This was not a problem until England began to threaten Ireland’s independence, first under the early Plantagenet kings and later under the Tudors. By 1600, much of Northern Ireland was in English hands, and from that point on, Ireland was essentially a colony of England.*

**Provinces:**

*Ulster:* Northern Ireland settled largely by Protestants.
*Connaught:* West Ireland.
*Leinster:* East Ireland.
*Munster:* South Ireland.

**Counties:**

Donegal, Tyrone, Down (North Ireland), Galway, Mayo (Connaught), Meath, Dublin, Wexford (Leinster), Cork, Waterford, Limerick (Munster)

**Cities:**

Londonderry, Belfast, Armagh (North Ireland), Galway, Carrick, Dublin, Kildare, Drogheda, Limerick, Waterford, Cork

**Water Bodies:**

North Channel, St. George’s Channel, Irish Sea, Donegal Bay, Galway Bay, Lough Neagh, Lough Erne, Lough Foyle, Lough Derg, Lough Corrib

**Battle Sites:**

*Battle of Contarf:* 1014, Viking Wars of Ireland (near Dublin)
*Siege of Drogheda:* 1648, English Civil War
*Battle of the Boyne:* 1688 Williamite War in Ireland
*Siege of Londonderry:* 1688, Williamite War in Ireland

**Maps:**

Ireland—Outline Map
Ireland, 1570
Ireland, 1641 to 1892
**British North America**

British Pirates, fishermen, and adventurers explored the coastlines of North America for many years before serious settlement of the region began in the early 17th century. Both British and French explorers made claims in the region, but only permanent settlers made good the claims. The first permanent French colonies were along the St. Lawrence Seaway. The first permanent British colonies were in Virginia and Massachusetts. Conflicts between the French and British for control of North America waged for near 100 years, until they were finally settled during the Seven Years War (1756-1763) in favor of Britain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colonies:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Canada:</strong></td>
<td>French-speaking British province of Canada, later Quebec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Canada:</strong></td>
<td>English-speaking British province of Canada, later Ontario.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Newfoundland:</strong></td>
<td>England’s first permanent colony in North America, est. 1610.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nova Scotia/Acadia:</strong></td>
<td>Colony of French Acadians, deported by British in 1755.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bahamas:</strong></td>
<td>Group of islands became a crown colony in 1718.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bermudas:</strong></td>
<td>Settled by the British Virginia Company in 1612.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jamaica:</strong></td>
<td>Acquired in 1655 as during the Anglo-Spanish Wars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hudson Bay Co.:</strong></td>
<td>Trading Company controlled much of Northern Canada.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revoluted Colonies:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay (MA &amp; ME), Rhode Islands, Connecticut Colony, New York (NY &amp; VT), New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware Colony, Maryland, Dominion of Virginia (VA, KT, WV), North Carolina (NC &amp; TN), South Carolina, Georgia (GA, AL, MS)</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Water Bodies:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rivers:</strong></td>
<td>St. Lawrence Seaway, Niagara Falls, Ottawa River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bays:</strong></td>
<td>Hudson Bay, James Bay, Gulf of Fundy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Great Lakes:</strong></td>
<td>Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Superior</td>
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<tr>
<th>Cities:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canada:</strong></td>
<td>Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Halifax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revoluted Colonies:</strong></td>
<td>Salem, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Hartford, Trenton, Richmond, Williamsburg, Savannah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caribbean:</strong></td>
<td>Nassau (Bahamas), Kingston (Jamaica)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Maps:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America—Outline Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American Colonies, 1755: French, British, Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Colonies, 1783: American, British, Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth of British America and United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
British India

British holdings in India were confined to a few trading posts until 1757, when Clive won control of the wealthy Bengal region at the battle of Plassey. Its influence grew over time, as Britain intervened in inter-tribal conflicts and fought to prevent other colonial powers from gaining a foothold. By the time of the Indian Mutiny, in 1857, Britain controlled the Ganges valley, all the coastal regions, and much of the interior.

Regions:
- **Bengal**: Ganges Valley, Mogul capital, wealthiest area of India.
- **Oudh**: Central Ganges Valley.
- **Sindh**: Northwest Coast of India, bordering Afghanistan.
- **Mysore**: Interior plateau in southern India.
- **Carnatic**: Eastern coastal region.
- **Nizam**: Central Deccan Plateau.

British Trading Centers:
- **Calcutta**: Located in Bengal, near mouth of the Ganges River.
- **Madras**: Located in Carnatic region, on eastern coast of India.
- **Bombay**: Located on western coast of India.

Rivers:
- **Ganges**: Large River in North India; drains Himalayas.
- **Indus**: River in Northwest India, borders Afghanistan.
- **Hoogly**: Trading River near mouth of Ganges.

Cities:
- **Cochin**: Dutch trading post that fell to Britain during Napoleonic Wars.
- **Delhi**: Capital city of the Mughal Empire.
- **Agra**: In Ganges Valley, site of Taj Mahal.
- **Goa**: Portuguese Trading city on the Malabar coast.
- **Lahore**: Capital of the Sikh kingdom under Ranjit Singh.

Battle Sites:
- **Plassey**: 1757, Carnatic Wars.
- **Seringapatam**: 1799, Mysore Wars.
- **Bhurtpore**: 1805, Maratha Wars. 1827, Bhurtpore Rebellion.
- **Lucknow**: 1857, Indian Mutiny.
- **Cawnpore**: 1857, Indian Mutiny.
- **Delhi**: 1857, Indian Mutiny.
Landforms:

- **Deccan Plateau**: Central Region of India.
- **Eastern Ghats**: Coastal Mountains to the East.
- **Western Ghats**: Coastal Mountains to the West, Wet and Rainy
- **Ganges Valley**: Major River Valley in North India.
- **Malabar Coast**: West Coast of India, Dutch/Portuguese Trading center.
- **Ceylon**: Major island off the southern coast of India.

Maps:

- India—Outline Map
- India after the Carnatic Wars, 1785
- British India, 1804
- British India, 1857
**British Africa**

Britain held colonies in several regions of Africa. Each British colony was administered separately, and was acquired on different terms. The colonies in South Africa were won from the Dutch during the Napoleonic Wars; the colonies in the West began as off-shore trading posts; the colonies in Eastern Africa were developed by the British East Africa company; and Sudan was acquired due to a British alliance with Egypt.

**South Africa:**
- **Cape Colony:** Dutch colony acquired by Britain during Napoleonic Wars.
- **Tranvaal Republics:** Boer Republic conquered by Britain during Boer Wars.
- **North Rhodesia:** Protectorate formed in 1911, modern Zambia.
- **South Rhodesia:** Protectorate formed in 1895, modern Zimbabwe.
- **Bechuanaland:** Protectorate established in 1885, modern Botswana.

**East Africa:**
- **British East Africa:** Modern Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda.

**West Africa:**
- **Nigeria:** Region governed by George Goldie, sold to British.
- **British Gold Coast:** Established after Anglo-Ashanti Wars.
- **Sierra Leone:** Freetown established as a colony for freed slaves.

**North Africa:**
- **Egypt:** Made British protectorate in 1914 at start of WWI.
- **Sudan:** Made protectorate in 1899 after Battle of Omdurman.

**Maps:**
- Cape Colony, before and after the Great Trek
- Colonial Africa, 1897
# Major British Colonies

### British Africa:
- **Cape Colony:** Dutch colony acquired by Britain during Napoleonic Wars.
- **Transvaal Republics:** Boer Republic conquered by Britain during Boer Wars.
- **Northern Rhodesia:** Protectorate formed in 1911; modern Zambia.
- **Southern Rhodesia:** Protectorate formed in 1895; modern Zimbabwe.
- **Bechuanaland:** Protectorate established in 1885; modern Botswana.
- **British East Africa:** Protectorate established in 1880; modern Kenya.
- **Nigeria:** Protectorate established in 1901.
- **British Gold Coast:** British trading colony since 1820; modern Ghana.
- **Sierra Leone:** Freetown made a crown colony in 1808.
- **Egypt:** Made British protectorate in 1914 at start of WWI.
- **Sudan:** Made protectorate in 1899 after Battle of Omdurman.

### British America:
- **Canada:** Acquired in 1759 following the French-Indian Wars.
- **Bahamas:** Group of islands that became a crown colony in 1718.
- **Bermudas:** Settled by the British Virginia Company in 1612.
- **Jamaica:** Acquired in 1655 as during the Anglo-Spanish Wars.
- **British Guiana:** Dutch colony ceded to the British in 1814.
- **Trinidad:** Acquired from Spain in 1797.
- **Barbados:** Acquired from Spain in 1625 for sugar crop.
- **British Honduras:** Acquired from Spain in 1862; present day Belize.
- **Falkland Islands:** Acquired in 1765, lost, then re-acquired in 1833.

### British Mediterranean:
- **Gibraltar:** Acquired in 1704 during the War of Spanish Succession.
- **Malta:** Acquired in 1814 following Napoleonic Wars.
- **Cyprus:** Acquired in 1878 from the Ottoman Empire.

### British Asia:
- **Australia:** Claimed for Britain in 1770 by James Cook.
- **New Zealand:** Claimed for Britain in 1770 by James Cook.
- **India:** Conquered Bengal in 1757, Battle of Plassey.
- **Burma:** Conquered in 1824 in first British-Burma War.
- **Singapore:** British trading post established in 1819.
- **Hong Kong:** Acquired by Britain in 1843, in First Opium War.
- **North Borneo:** British protectorate established in 1882.
- **Ceylon:** Acquired in 1796 following French Revolution Wars.

### Maps:
- Outline Map of the World
- British Empire, 1907