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**Auszug aus:**

*What defines Britain and The British Empire?*

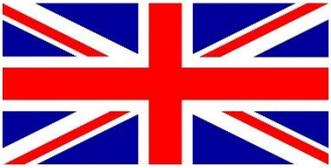
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## Station 1: What defines Britain?

1. What defines Britain as a country? Write down your thoughts in the box below. The images can give a few first ideas.



What defines Britain?

2. Discuss your ideas with a partner. Add his/her ideas to your box and vice versa.

## Station 2: The Empire and The British Monarchy

1. Read the following text. Then, mark the countries that belonged to the British Empire in the map below. Add the date when the countries became part of the British Empire.
2. Use the Internet to find out when each country gained independence from Britain. Add the dates to map as well.

### THE BRITISH EMPIRE

From the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the British Empire expanded quickly. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, almost a quarter of the world was under British rule. The first British colonies were established in order to facilitate **trade and to demonstrate Britain's power. In the 1620s, several Caribbean Islands including Barbados and Bermuda were placed under British rule.** Britain used these colonies as trade posts in order to profit from **the countries' natural resources such as cane sugar.** Through a widespread system of plantation slavery, the British oppressed the native people of the Caribbean Islands.

Trade was also an important factor in the establishment of British colonies in India. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the East India Company, a company of trading merchants, established several settlements in India. By 1757, India was under the rule of the East India Company. The East India Company governed India for over a century, until the British crown took over the rule in 1858.

Several British colonies were established in North America (the earliest in 1607 in Jamestown) as well. As a protest against taxation, these colonies fought for their independence, and in 1776, the United States of America seceded from the British Empire. Nevertheless, Britain was still influential in North America, and Canada became a British dominion in 1867.

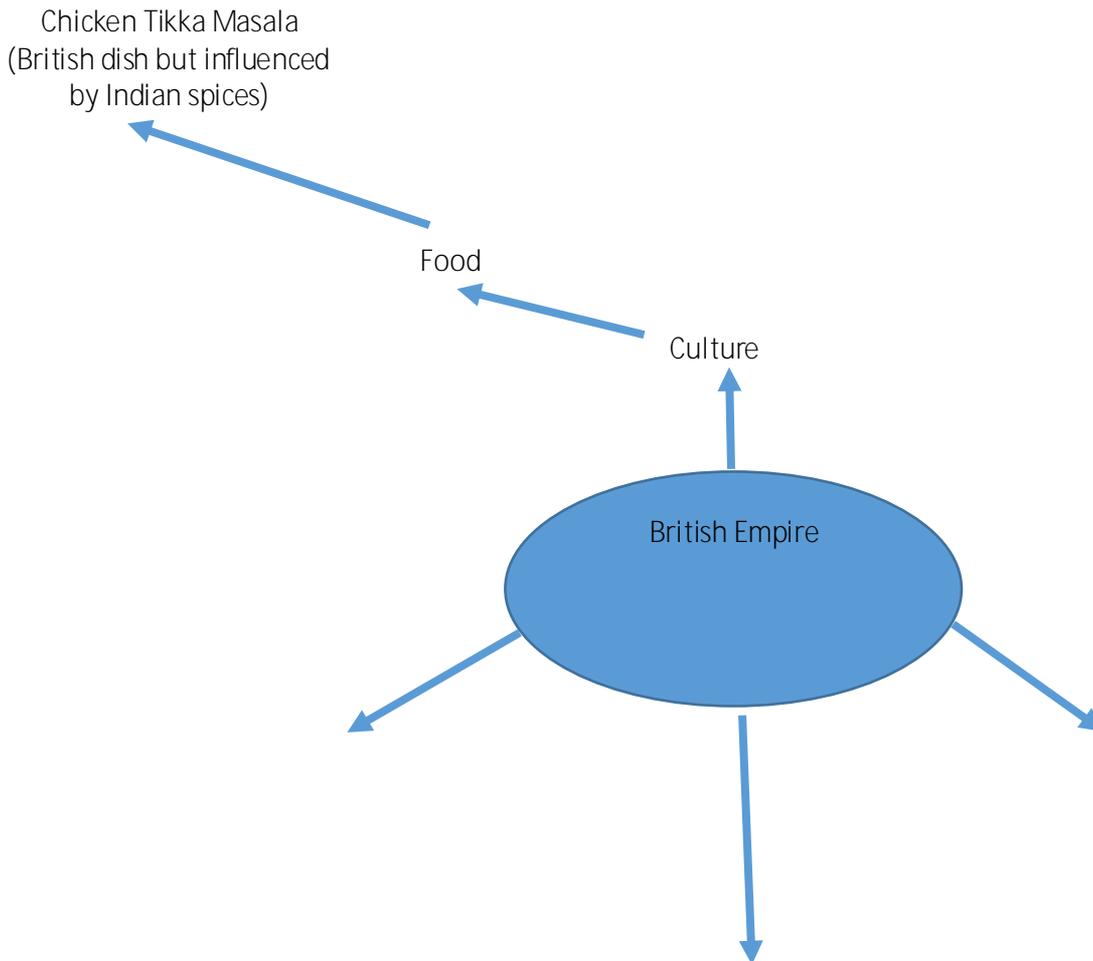
Several states on the continent of Africa also became part of the British Empire, including Trinidad and Tobago in 1797, Sierra Leone in 1807, Egypt in 1882, and Sudan in 1898. Australia also became part of the British Empire, and began as a penal colony for convicts from Britain in 1787.



3. Use the Internet to find out which other countries belonged to the British Empire. Colour in the countries on the map and add the dates.

### Station 3: The Empire and Britain Today

Even though the British Empire does not exist anymore, many aspects of British life were and still are influenced by the Empire. Fill in the mind map with different aspects of British life that were influenced by the Empire. One example has been filled in for you.





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