

Creative Fun with History!

Action Activity:

Globe-trotting Around the British Empire

"The sun never sets on the British Empire" was a phrase used to describe just how big the British Empire really was.

There were British colonies, protectorates, and other "empire" relationships in the Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere; in the islands of the Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Indian Ocean; and on six of the seven continents—Asia, Australia, North America, South America, Europe, and Africa (Antarctica was not part of the Empire). This Action Activity, though it names only a few places in the Empire, will help illustrate how the British Empire covered one-fourth of the world, all around the globe!

You will need:

- A large playing area
- The map on the next page for locating the places
- A length of yarn or rope across your playing area to divide the Southern Hemisphere from the Northern Hemisphere
- Paper plate colored to look like the sun, with string attached like a necklace
- 10 paper plates, each labeled with a number and a country (see the chart below)
- 6 green pieces of construction paper and 4 blue pieces of construction paper labeled with a number and a continent/ocean and decorated as you please (see the chart below)

PAPER PLATE LABELS

#1 – England	«-»
#2 – Falkland Islands	«-»
#3 – British Guiana	«-»
#4 – Canada	«-»
#5 – Northwest Territories	«-»
#6 – New Zealand	«-»
#7 – Australia	«-»
#8 – Singapore	«-»
#9 – India	«-»
#10 – South Africa	«-»

CONSTRUCTION PAPER LABELS

Green #1 – Europe
Blue #2 – Atlantic Ocean
Green #3 – South America
Green #4 – North America
Blue #5 – Arctic Ocean
Blue #6 – South Pacific Ocean
Green #7 – Australia
Blue #8 – Indian Ocean
Green #9 – Asia
Green #10 – Africa

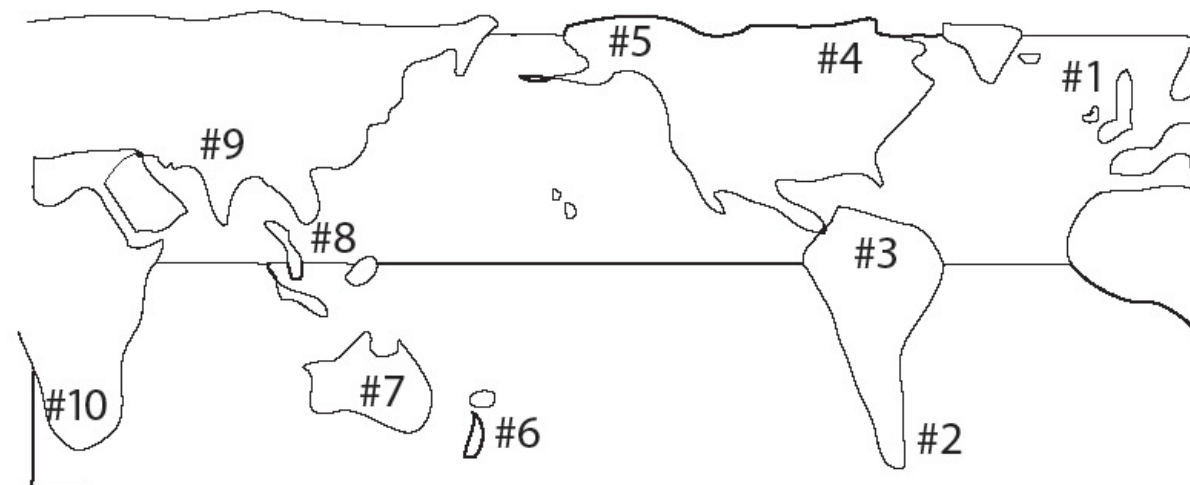
Step 1: Label a plate and a green paper each with a big "#1," then label the plate "England" and the paper "Europe."

Step 2: Label a plate and a blue paper each with a big "#2," then label the plate "Falkland Islands" and the paper "Atlantic Ocean."

Step 3 through step 10: Continue down the chart, labeling plates and colored papers.

The green and blue papers will be arranged on the floor in this activity, and the matching plates will be set on them by each player in turn. The players will be globe-trotting west visiting each ocean and continent through ten locations that were part of the British Empire.

Have a leader, using the map below for direction, place each of the ten colored papers on the floor of the playing area. Use a large, spacious area, indoors or outside, so the players can move a lot. Be sure to place the continents and oceans in their respective hemispheres—on one side of the yarn or the other—arranged just as they are shown on the map.



The play:

One player, holding the plates and wearing the "sun," begins on the side of the area and "globe-trots" over to "#1 – Europe." Setting the plate, "#1 – England" on it; the player then three times jumps in the air and shouts the name of the country. The other players then three times jump in the air and shout the continent or ocean. It sounds like: player—jump ENGLAND jump ENGLAND jump ENGLAND; others—jump EUROPE jump EUROPE jump EUROPE.

The same player continues to "Blue #2 – Atlantic Ocean," places "#2 – Falkland Islands" on it, and commences: jump FALKLAND ISLANDS jump FALKLAND ISLANDS jump FALKLAND ISLANDS; others—jump ATLANTIC OCEAN jump ATLANTIC OCEAN jump ATLANTIC OCEAN.

The first player continues through all ten locations in this manner. When the first player is finished and returns to the starting point, the second player takes the sun and the plates and goes globe-trotting. Repeat until all players have had a turn.

Variation: When the player lands at the location, he jumps up and down three times shouting the continent or ocean, while the others respond by jumping up and down three times shouting the country.

It would be an excellent addition to this exercise to have the students look at a large world map or globe and find the ten locations. How amazingly large the British Empire was! Just think, with all those countries, even if it were nighttime in England, someplace else the sun was shining on the Empire.