

## YEAR 5 HISTORY: Learning sequence 1

# Sikh and Indian Australians

## TEACHER RESOURCE 1 - SYMBOLS OF EMPIRE



**1. This World War 1 poster includes symbols representing Great Britain and the USA.**

The four symbols from left to right are:

1. The bald eagle, an emblem for the USA because of its long life, strength and freedom.
2. Uncle Sam (USA), with the American flag - Stars and Stripes on his trousers and hat.
3. Britannia who symbolises Great Britain with a Shield (British flag or Union Flag), Corinthian helmet and trident.
4. Lion is a symbol of British and Scottish power and has been on the Royal coat of arms for centuries

What symbols are used to represent Australia? Flag? Animals? Canada?

World War I poster, 1918, *wikimedia commons*



**2. A section of the 1886 Map of the British Empire showing Britannia (Britain) seated on the globe supported by Atlas.**

“Human labour” is written on the sash across Atlas’s chest, a political comment by the author of the map, British illustrator Walter Crane. Note the servants either side of Britannica, caring for and supporting Britain, and the sea creatures at the base of the map, possibly symbolising the British naval supremacy.

A map of the world in 1886: areas under British control are highlighted in red. Author: Walter Crane (1845–1915), *wikimedia commons*

### 3. Section 2 of the map of the British Empire in 1886



- What can the students identify from this section of the map of the British Empire? What countries in the British Empire might these images represent? (eg A man wearing a turban, seated on an elephant, semi clothed man carrying a heavy parcel were symbols for India. The European man holding a gun with a tiger by his side could represent South Africa).
- Use the full map for this activity. In pairs students research and name the British colonies evident on the 1886 map. Then try to match the symbols surrounding the map with the British colonies they have identified (see teacher answer below).

A map of the world in 1886: areas under British control are highlighted in red. Author: Walter Crane (1845–1915), *wikimedia commons*

Symbols and countries on the 1886 map of the British Empire

BRITAIN AND NAME OF BRITISH COLONY	SYMBOL - PERSON OR ANIMAL - USED TO REPRESENT THE COUNTRY ON THE ILLUSTRATED 1886 MAP
Great Britain	Britannia with the Union flag, soldier (red coat), sailor (white uniform)
India (1858)	Indian men with turbans*, elephant
Cape colony (1806)	European hunter
Singapore (1867)	Asian woman
Canada (1867)	American Indian, well clothed worker, a Moose
Australia (1788)	Aboriginal woman, sheep, man with spade (digger from the gold rushes - see pan at his feet)
New Zealand (1841)	Sheep, woollen cloth
Jamaica (1655)	
Sierra Leone (1787)	African woman
Gambia (1816)	African woman
Gold Coast (1874)	African woman

- Does the author of the map show any bias or have a point of view about the British Empire? Look carefully at the images surrounding the map and write down any evidence that may indicate that the map maker is making a comment about the British Empire in 1886. (eg, nationalism, using labour from countries like India, women as servants waving fans at Britannia, man holding up the globe that Britain seems to own).