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ARMY MUSEUM

LEARNING

Become a documentary filmmaker exploring the British Empire in Africa...



ARMY AND AND EMPIRE

KEY 4-5

SCHOOLS TRAIL

ARMY AND EMPIRE

You are a documentary filmmaker creating a new series on the British Empire in Africa in the nineteenth century. You want to focus on the British Army's role in building and maintaining the Empire, so the National Army Museum is a great place to do your research.

Follow this trail to look critically at the evidence and consider different viewpoints. You want your film to be thought-provoking yet accurate.

This trail takes you to five different galleries in the Museum and you can visit them in any order.



IN **INSIGHT** GALLERY

Today, many museums in Britain display objects collected from different parts of the Empire.

Objects collected in	-	udan. re often called 'trophies'. d brought these objects home?	
Do you think these on where they are original to the control of th	-	t in Britain today or sent back t	0
Keep here	Send back	Not sure	



IN **SOLDIER** GALLERY

Thousands of soldiers fought to expand and maintain British control in large parts of Africa. You will want to feature this in your documentary.

Why serve in the empire? Look straight ahead. Find the 'See the world' recruiting poster. What part of the world do you think the soldiers shown are serving in?						
What challenges did British soldiers face in Africa?						
☐ Hot temperatures ☐ Lack of water ☐ New diseases						
Unfamiliar terrain Dangerous animals All of these						
Walk through the gallery until you find the display of rations and cooking equipment. Look for the stove and mess tin, emergency rations and portable medical kit used in the Boer War. How do you think these items helped British soldiers deal with the conditions in South Africa?						

IN **ARMY** GALLERY

Who fought for Britain in Africa?

In the 1800s, the Army fought across the world, gradually increasing Britain's power and influence. Find the wall of metal badges. Can you find these ones? Where in the world did these units serve? Write the names of regiments on the labels above. Why do you think the Army wanted to show this on their badges? (HINT: Use the touchscreen to find out more.) Now go to the back of the gallery. Find the West India Regiment uniform from 1886. Why do you think that the British Army sometimes used West Indians to fight for them in Africa? (HINT: Use the touchscreen to your far right.)

IN **BATTLE** GALLERY

When campaigning in Africa, the British faced resistance from many groups and armies using a range of tactics, armour and weapons.

	What	challenges	did	British	soldiers	face	in	battle?
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At Isandlwana in southern Africa, a Zuli in January 1879. Find the large oil pain by artist Charles Fripp.				
Who is winning the battle?	Zulu army The British Army			
Compare the painting with the display case next to it. What kinds of weapons did the different sides use?				
ZULU WEAPONS	BRITISH WEAPONS			
>	>			
>	>			
>	>			
>				
How did the British army				
react to challenges?	100			
Find the Maxim machine gun This could fire 600 bullets per	Q			
minute and swivel from side to side. How would this have helped the British to deal with large numbers of the enemy?				

IN **SOCIETY** GALLERY

Journalists and artists often accompanied soldiers in Africa, sending reports and sketches to newspapers back home. The British public was able to follow the latest news.

How was war in Africa represented at home?

Between 1899-1902, the British fought a major war with the Boers in South Africa. Some politicians thought Britain shouldn't have an empire and shouldn't be fighting the Boers.

Walk around to your right - look for the Relief of Ladysmith painting opposite the green vehicle. How could this image change attitudes to the war? Now go around to your right - find the case with a silver bagpiper statue. Look for the small badges of British commanders in South Africa. How do they encourage support for the war? You have now visited all five of the

Museum galleries.
There are still many
more things to discover!