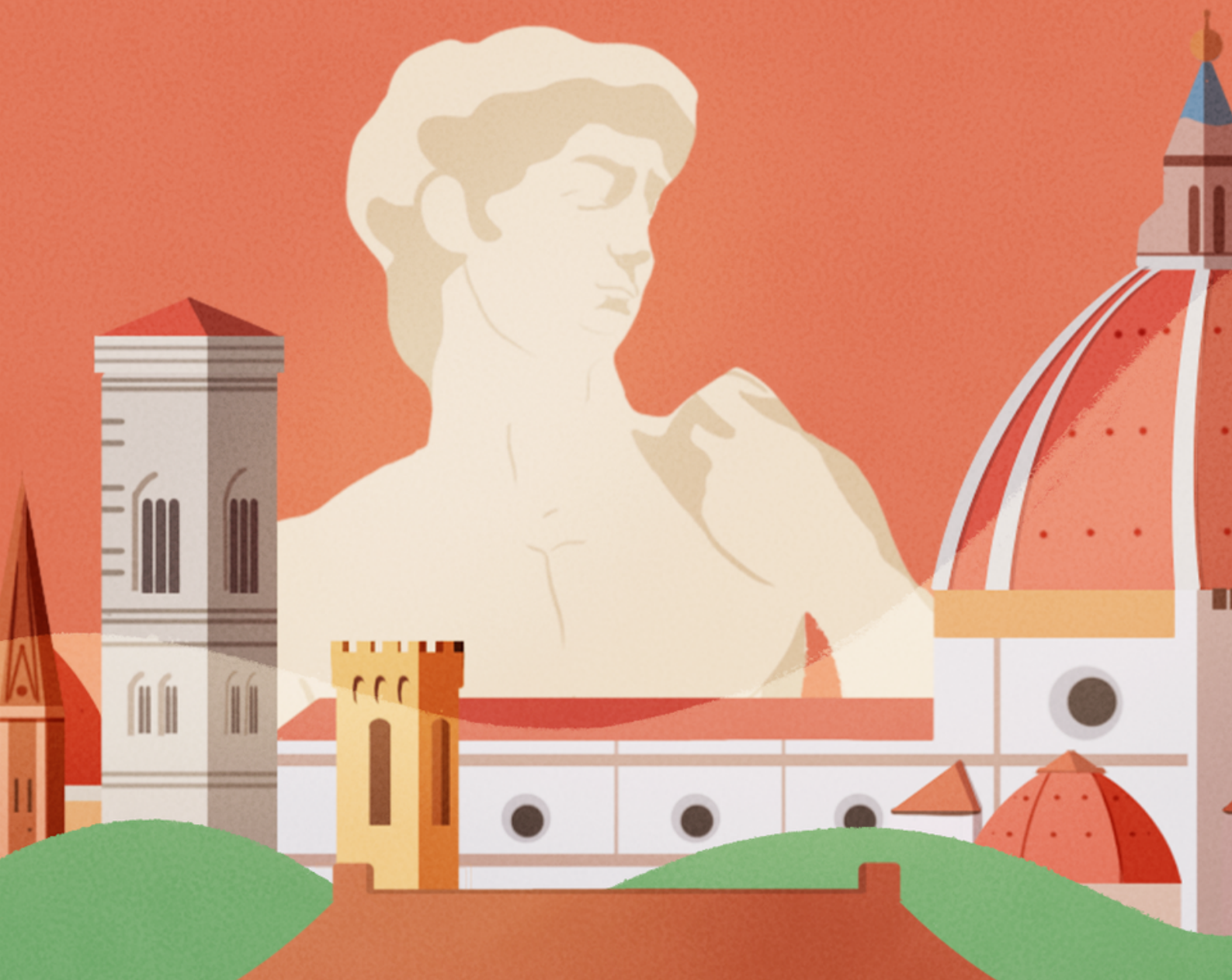


What Is the Commonwealth?





Essential question:

Key vocabulary:

colonial

Before watching

Make Predictions and Activate Prior Knowledge

Pose the following question to your students: *What do you know about the Commonwealth?*

Then, give students a blank map of the world.

Students are to colour in the countries that were initially a part of the British Empire in one colour. Then, students are to colour in countries that are now part of the Commonwealth in another colour.

Have students add a heading, compass points, and a key/legend to their map.

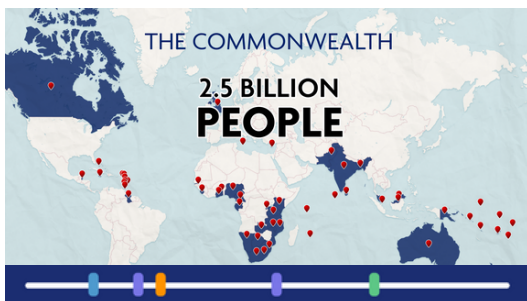
Whilst watching

Tell students that they will discuss the concept after watching the video. Advise them to use the Cornell Notes graphic organiser to take notes.

Use the interactive video to engage students in a critical thinking discussion about the video content.



Watching individually



Have students watch the interactive created for immediate feedback and solo viewing.

After watching

Below are three activities to extend the learning from the video and to check for understanding.

Activity 1: Class Discussion

As a class, discuss the following questions:

- Do you think that it was right for the Commonwealth to ask South Africa to leave the Commonwealth whilst they were struggling under apartheid rule?
- Critics of the Commonwealth question its enduring relevance: do you agree or disagree with them? Why?
- Do you think in the 21st century there is still a place for the Commonwealth?
- Do you think that with the death of Queen Elizabeth, King Charles will simply be able to carry on as before?

Activity 2: History of the Commonwealth

Have students research the history of the Commonwealth to understand how it formed.

Students are to use the Internet and books to conduct this research. They can do this independently or in small groups.

Have them prepare a timeline using a digital tool or handwritten to mark significant events that contributed to the Commonwealth as we know it, including both positive and negative events. They should include a short, written summary of each significant event they include and define any topic-specific vocabulary.

Extension:

The Commonwealth has a history of colonisation, slavery, and racism. How do students think people in the communities who suffered at the hands of the Commonwealth perceive its importance and role in society? Students can conduct research and present their findings and thoughts in any suitable way.

Support:

Give students a list of important dates in the history of the Commonwealth to help them create the foundation of their timeline.

Activity 3: Debating the Relevance of the Commonwealth Games

Ask your students: *Do you think the Commonwealth Games are unnecessary and outdated, or a grand tradition?*

Students are to research the history of the Commonwealth Games and familiarise themselves with the tradition. Students are to decide what side of the argument they would like to argue.

Students are to break into groups of six with 3 x students for unnecessary and outdated, and 3 x students for a grand tradition.

Students are to debate their points of view.

Extension:

Social media is the fastest way to begin a movement, collaborate with like-minded people, and draw attention to issues.

Students are to go onto [Canva](https://www.canva.com) and design 2-3 social media posts that would appeal to a target audience (identified by the student) promoting their point of view on the Commonwealth Games.

Conclusion

Students should answer these questions for every lesson:

1. Answer the essential question using as much detail as you can: What are the origins of the Commonwealth, how has it changed, and what are its aims for the future?
2. What questions do you still have about the content you saw in the video?