



Living in a global community

U Upper

- **Lesson 1: What is global citizenship?**
- **Lesson 2: Britain and the world community**
- **Lesson 3: Britain and the European Union**
- **Lesson 4: War and peace**
- **Lesson 5: Keeping the peace – the role of the United Nations**
- **Lesson 6: Wealth and poverty**
- **Lesson 7: Overseas aid**
- **Lesson 8: Human rights**
- **Lesson 9: The environment**
- **Lesson 10: Habitats in Britain**
- **Lesson 11: A better world**
- **Lesson 12: A balloon debate**

Lesson 2: Britain and the world community 1 or 2 x 30-45 mins

Aim

To understand Britain's relationships with other countries and see Britain as part of a global community.

Learning outcomes

Children should be taught:

- to talk and write about their opinions, and explain their views, on issues that affect themselves and society;
- to research, discuss and debate topical issues, problems and events;
- to think about the lives of people living in other places

Resources

- A wall map of the world, clearly showing the extent of the British Commonwealth
- **Activity sheet GC2a: Britain and the world**

Activity

Write the name 'Great Britain' on the board. Ask:

Key Questions

*Is Britain a great country?
If so, in what way?
What makes it great?
Is it better than other countries?*

Discuss with the children what makes a country great, in the sense of being influential or powerful. You might mention:

- military might;
- opposition to tyranny (helping people who are struggling for freedom);
- industrial strength;
- sporting success;
- having several famous people who have invented things for the improvement of mankind;
- having many famous celebrities.

Discuss the responses and consider any issues that arise. Then ask:

Key Questions

*Is Britain a strong country?
What are the British really good, even great, at?
Do we want or need to be 'the greatest'?*

Suggest other ways of looking at 'greatness', such as:

- being peace-loving and supporting attempts to solve disputes with other countries without resorting to war;
- the way in which a country shows concern for disadvantaged people at home and poor and starving peoples at home and abroad.

Consider whether a small country such as Switzerland (or another country of your choice) could ever be considered 'great'. (NB: Switzerland, 8m people, 16,000 square miles; compare Great Britain – England, Scotland, Wales and N Ireland – 65.6m and 94,000 and the USA, 320m and 3.8m, respectively.)

Talk about Britain's position in the world, its membership of international organisations and the three spheres of influence of Britain in global affairs since 1945 (its relationship with the United States, with the Commonwealth and with the European Union). The first part of **Activity sheet GC2a: Britain and the world** will help explain Britain's influence in particular parts of the world.

Emphasise that the two key relationships have for many years been those with the European Union and the United States. Ask:

Key Questions ?

What parts of Europe or the USA have any of you been to?

What were your impressions of the country/countries, its/their people, etc.?

Are the British generally more like the Americans or other Europeans?

What are the similarities/differences between Britain and the USA?

What are the similarities/differences between Britain and Europe?

Then ask the children to complete **Activity sheet GC2a: Britain and the world**.

In a plenary session go through the answers to the first two questions and discuss the answers to the third. **(NB:** You will find definitions of developing countries and human rights in Useful vocabulary on page 246).

Differentiation

By outcome.



Background information: Britain's place in the world

Britain was once a major power in the world. Its strength and greatness rested on its industrial and military might. The British Empire extended far across the world. In two World Wars, the country was on the winning side, and in 1945, at the end of the Second World War, the British had reason to think of themselves as a powerful nation.

In Britain's relations with the rest of the world, there were three main areas of interest:

- the close relationship with the United States;
- the Empire, which during the twentieth century became the Commonwealth, an association of peoples of many races and religions;
- Europe: as an offshore island, Britain never saw itself as a truly European power, more as a world one.

Since 1945, the Commonwealth has been of less significance in Britain's relations with the world; and the alliance with the United States, usually strong, has gone through periods of greater and lesser strength; British politicians still often talk of a 'special relationship' with the USA.

Europe has become more important, and in the last two or three decades much of the discussion about Britain's place in the world has been about European issues – particularly about Britain's place in the European Union, which is now going to come to an end.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Britain and the world



Commonwealth



European Union



United Nations



NATO

In 1945, at the end of the Second World War, Britain was thought to be a great power in the world; it had been on the winning side in the fighting of the previous six years.

By a great power, we mean a country that is able to play a major part in world affairs, because of its resources and military strength.

Today, most people would say that Britain is not such an important power as it was 70 years ago. Other countries have become stronger. Despite this, Britain is still important in world affairs. Britain belongs to about 80 international organisations, which give us a voice in world affairs. Several of these organisations were set up after the Second World War. Many are not very well known. These are some of the most important ones:

- the Commonwealth, which has 52 members;
- the European Union, which has 28 members (**NB:** British membership is likely to come to an end soon);

- the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which has 28 members;
- the United Nations, which has 193 members.

Britain is very interested in what happens abroad. This is partly because:

- it is a member of the organisations listed above;
- it was once a very powerful country which played a leading part in the two world wars of the twentieth century – in both cases, ending up on the winning side;
- it is a trading nation, which does a lot of business with other countries;
- it gives money to developing countries to help them with their problems.

Britain is an ally (friendly country) of the United States. It has an important voice when matters of peace and war are being discussed. It is also involved in talks about world poverty, world population, the environment and human rights.

1. Fill in the blanks.

Britain belongs to about _____ world organisations. It is an _____ of the United States, and has been a long-standing member of the European _____ although its membership is due to come to an end soon.

It helps _____ countries with their problems. It is one of _____ countries in the United Nations.

2. Answer these questions.

How many countries are there in the Commonwealth?

Does the European Union have as many countries in it as NATO?

Why do you think that the European Union has fewer countries in it than the United Nations?

3. Write down the meaning of these words or phrases.

peace _____

war _____

ally _____

poverty _____

developing countries _____

human rights _____