

# Sikh and Indian Australians

## **TEACHER RESOURCE 3 - THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND SWAN RIVER COLONY TIMELINE 1800 -1900**

**Construct a timeline of key events in the development of the Swan River Colony. These are shown in the list below in italics. Also include 6 to 8 developments in the wider British Empire in your timeline. You should be able to explain why you chose those events.**

A online timeline tool from 'read write think' resources may be of use. You may choose to model the use of this timeline resource.

[http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline\\_2/](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline_2/)

**1801** Irish Act of Union uniting Ireland and Britain

**1804** Hobart in Tasmania was founded. Matthew Flinders recommended that New Holland be renamed Australia.

**1805** British Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson won the Battle of Trafalgar giving the Royal Navy control of the seas.

**1807** British occupied Bonaire, Curacao, Saint Croix and Saint Thomas in the Caribbean

**1808** Sierra Leone in Africa became a British Colony

**1821** Sierra Leone, Gambia and the Gold Coast were combined to form British West Africa

**1826** *Major Edmund Lockyer arrived at King George Sound to take possession of the western part of Australia, establishing a settlement near Albany.*

**1829** *The Swan River Colony began. Britain claimed the Australian continent as a British colony.*

**1834** The colony of South Australia was founded. Settlers arrived from 1836.

**20 June 1837** Queen Victoria came to the British throne

Victoria became queen after the death of her uncle, William IV. Her reign of 60 years was a period of important social, economic and technological change, which saw the expansion of Britain's industrial power and of the British Empire.

**1838** First British war against Afghanistan began (ended in 1842).

**May 1838** People's Charter advocated social and political reform

The People's Charter called for democratic reform on the basis of six points: one man, one vote; equal electoral districts; payment of members of parliament; elections by secret ballot; removal of property qualifications for MPs; and parliaments elected every year. 'Chartism' gained great support among working people during the next decade.

**August 1838** Slavery was abolished in the British empire

During 1838 over 700,000 slaves were freed in the British Caribbean.

**1841-43** *Development of the Australind region in the Swan River Colony.*

**17 September 1838** London-Birmingham railway line opens and the railway boom starts.

This line, which connected London to the Midlands for the first time, was designed by engineer Robert Stephenson. London-Birmingham was the first railway line into the capital city.

**1839** Ranjit Singh died leaving power vacuum in the Indian Sikh Kingdom.

**1840** Treaty of Waitangi in New Zealand.

**1842** Treaty of Nanking (Nanjing) led to the British ownership of Hong Kong

**1845 -46** First Sikh War ended when the British defeated the Sikhs

**1845** Irish potato famine began

The potato crop which had previously provided approximately 60% of the nation's food needs, began to rot. The potato blight struck again the following year. It is estimated that about a million people died during the four-year famine, and that between 1845 and 1855 another million emigrated.

**1848 -49** Second Sikh War. Britain annexed the Punjab

**1850 to 1868** *Convicts were sent to the Swan River colony*

**1851** The colony of Victoria was officially proclaimed

**May 1851** The Great Exhibition opened at the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London

The Great Exhibition was designed to provide a showcase for the world's most advanced inventions, manufactures and works of art.



London's Great Exhibition of 1851 at the Crystal Palace  
(public domain, [wikimedia commons](#))

**March 1854** The Crimean War began

Russia was defeated and the war was ended in March 1856. British troops casualties were huge due to poor medical facilities. Florence Nightingale pressured for medical reforms due to the poor conditions in hospitals.

**1856** Natal became a British colony

**May 1857** Bengal army mutinied in India

The mutiny led to the end of East India Company rule in India and its replacement by direct British rule.

**July 1858** India came under direct British government control

**1859** Queensland became a British colony

**1861–63** Land was opened for the pastoral industry in the Western Australian Pilbara region.

**1867** *The town of Cossack was established as the centre of the Western Australian pearl shell industry until the 1880s.*

**1867** Joseph Lister began to use antiseptics

Joseph Lister, Professor of Clinical Surgery at Glasgow University, began experiments designed to reduce high hospital death rates from infections. He used carbolic acid as an antiseptic and decreased death rates.

**17 November 1869** Suez Canal opened, linking the Mediterranean and the Red Sea

The canal became important for British trade and strategy, particularly as a route to India and the Far East, and was protected by British troops from 1883.

**1870** *An underwater cable linked Australia and London*

**1870** *The Perth Town hall was completed*

**1871** *Western Australia's first railway was built, a privately owned timber line in Lockville, north of Busselton.*

**18 July 1872** Voting by secret ballot was introduced in Great Britain

This realised one of the key points of the reforming 'Chartist' petition of 1838.

**May 1876** Queen Victoria was declared Empress of India. Queen Victoria officially used this title from 1877.

**1878 - 1880** Second Anglo-Afghan War led to the defeat of Afghani leader and Great Britain (and Russia) re-drawing Afghanistan's borders.

**August 1880** Education became compulsory for children from ages five to 10 in Great Britain.

**1880-1881** The First Boer War the Boers (farmers of European descent) of the Transvaal forced the British government to recognise their independence.

**1881** *Western Australian Government Railways opened a line from Fremantle to Perth and Guildford.*

**1883** *Broome was developed to support the pearling industry.*

**1885** *Gold was discovered in the Kimberleys*

**September 1892** *Arthur Bayley and William Ford discovered gold at Coolgardie.*

**June 1893** *Paddy Hannan and Tom Flanagan struck gold at Mount Charlotte, Kalgoorlie.*

**1893** *Perth was connected to the port of Bunbury by railway.*

**1896** *The railway from Perth to Kalgoorlie was opened.*

**2 July 1897** Guglielmo Marconi was awarded a patent for radio communication

His work started the 'Wireless Age'

**October 1899** Second Boer War began in South Africa

The Boers refused to recognise the rights of the British in the Transvaal. The war ended when the Boers surrendered in May 1902.

**July 1900** *Western Australians voted to join the Commonwealth of Australia.*

Adapted from

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/timeline/victorianbritain\\_timeline\\_noflash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/timeline/victorianbritain_timeline_noflash.shtml)

and <http://www.britishempire.co.uk/timeline/19century.htm>