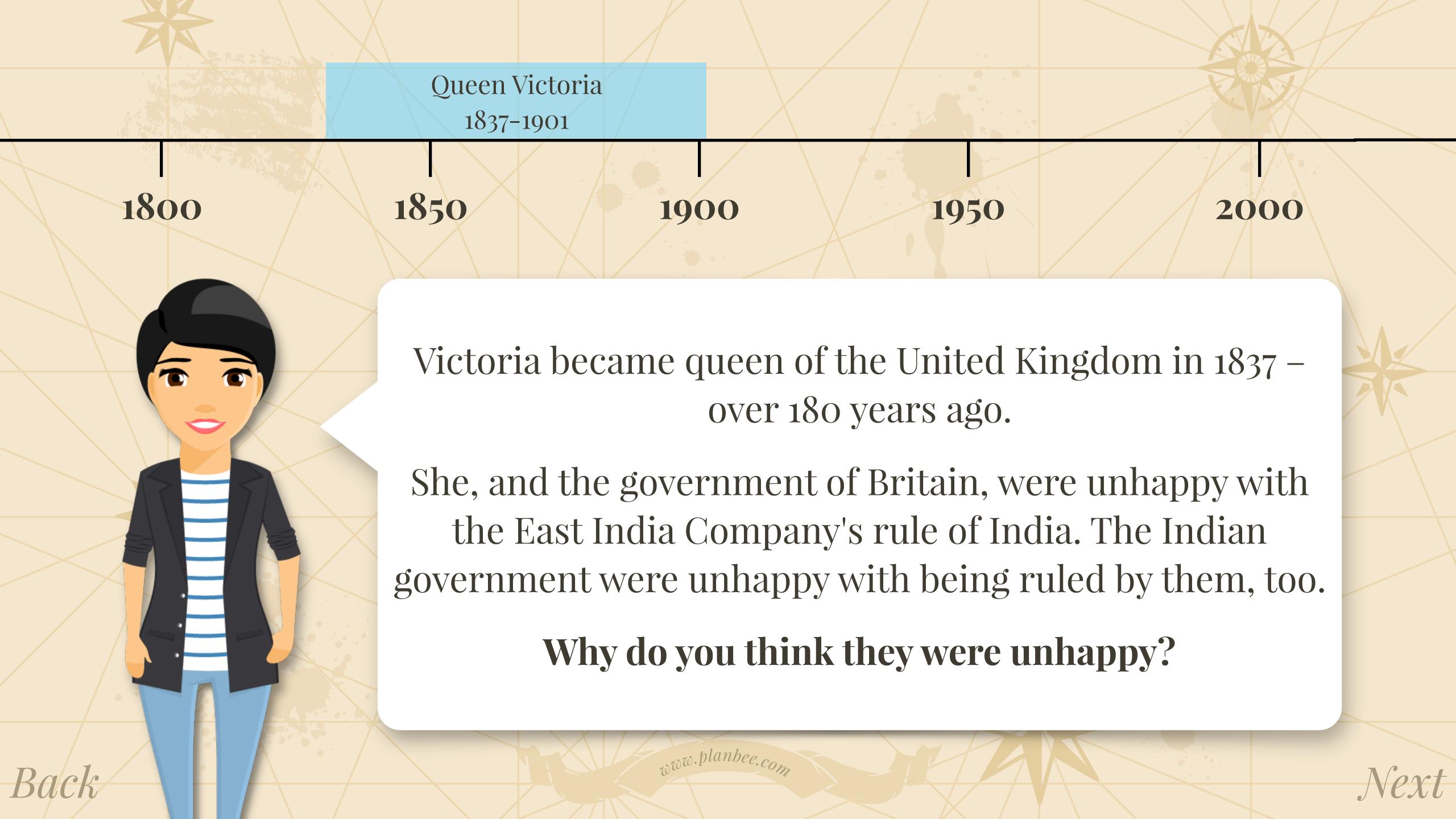
The British Empire

The British Raj

Learning Objective:

To understand and explain how the British Raj in India was established, and how it was structured.





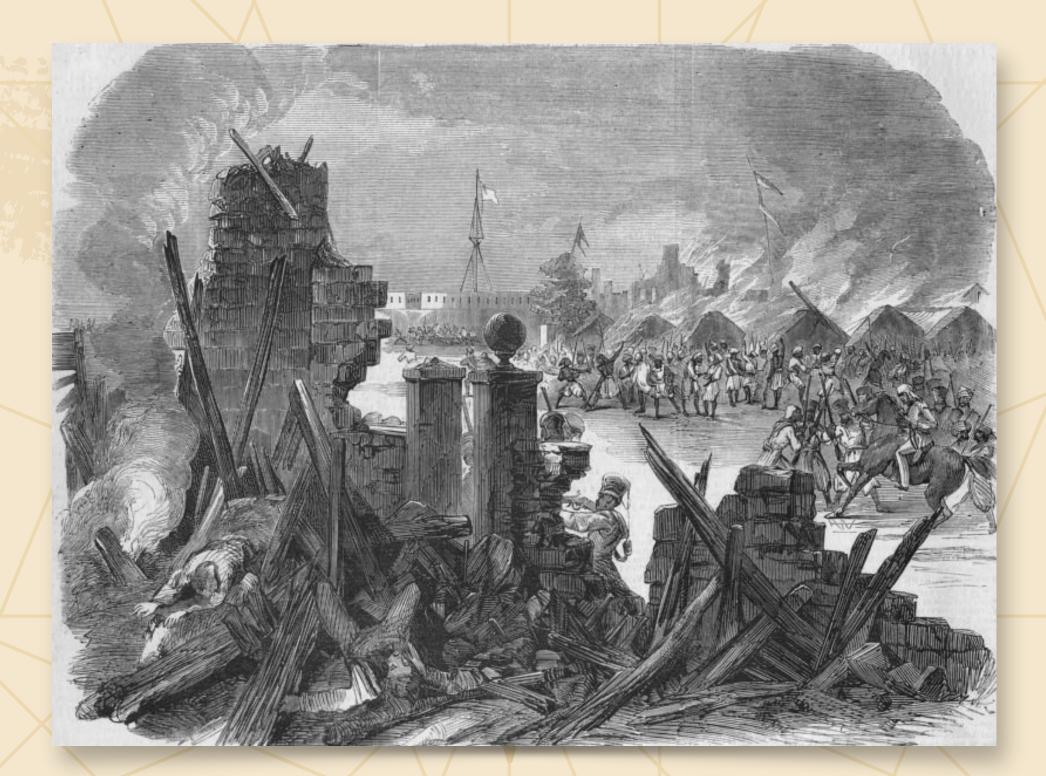
Why was the East India Company's rule in India unpopular?

Queen Victoria and her government.

- The queen believed that she and her government should rule.
- They disliked a private company having so much money and power.
- They felt that the East India
 Company did not do enough to help
 the people of India.
- They believed they would be better rulers of India.

The Indian government and people of India.

- They wanted to rule themselves.
- They disliked the way the East India Company ruled.
- They disliked the East India
 Company taking money and goods
 out of India.
- They wanted India to be independent – not ruled by anyone else.

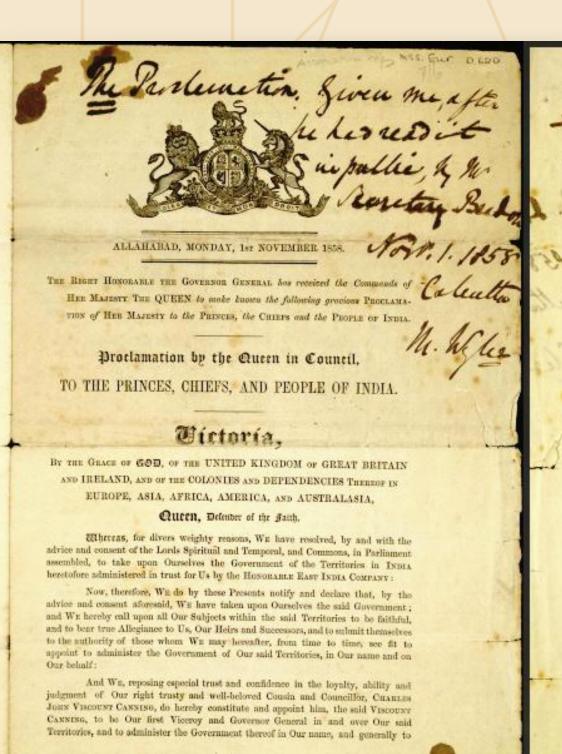


Why do you think so many Indian people revolted against the East India Company?

In 1857, there was a revolt. Many Indian soldiers (called *sepoys*) in the East India Company's private army rose up against the British company. Civilians fought, too. Although there were 50,000 British officers in the East India Company's private army, there were over 300,000 Indian soldiers. The fighting continued for many months, and hundreds of thousands died.







act in Our name and on Our behalf, subject to such Orders and Regulations as he shall, from time to time, receive from Us through one of Our principal Secretaries

And We do hereby confirm in their several Offices, Civil and Military, all Persons now ampleyed in the Service of the Honorable East India Company, subject to bur rebire placese, and to such Laws and Regulations as may bereafter be enacted.

hereby announce to the Native Princes of India that all Treaties and Engagements made with them by or under the authority of the Honorable East India Company are by Us accepted, and will be scrupulously maintained; and WE India for the like observance on their part.

We desire no extension of Our present territorial Possessions; and while We will permit no aggression upon Our Dominions or Our Rights to be attempted with impunity, We shall sanction no encroachment on those of others. We shall respect the Rights, Dignity, and Honor of Native Princes as Our own; and We desire that they, as well as Our own Subjects, should enjoy that Prosperity and that social Advancement which can only be secured by internal Perce and good Government.

WE hold Ourselves bound to the Natives of Our Indian Territories by the same Obligations of Duty which bind Us to all Our other Subjects; and those Obligations, by the Blessing of Almoury God, We shall faithfully and conscientionals fulfil.

Firmly relying Ourselves on the truth of Christianity, and acknowledging with gratitude the solace of Religion. We disclaim alike the Right and the Desire to impose our Convictions on any of Our Subjects. We declare it to be Our Royal Will and Pleasure that none be in any wise favored, none molested or disquieted, by reason of their Religious Paith or Observances; but that all shall alike onjoy the equal and impartial protection of the Law; and We do strictly charge and enjoin all those who may be in authority under Us, that they abstain from all interference with the Religious Belief or Worship of any of Our Subjects, on pain of Our highest Displeasure.

And it is Our further Will that, so far as may be, Our Subjects, of whatever Race or Creed, he freely and importially admitted to Offices in Our Service, the Duties of which they may be qualified, by their education, ability, and integrity, duly to discharge.

WE know, and respect, the feelings of attachment with which the Natives of INDIA regard the Lands inherited by them from their Ancestors; and WE desire to protect them in all Rights connected therewith, subject to the equitable demands of the State; and WE will that generally, in framing and administering the Law, due regard be paid to the ancient Rights, Usages, and Customs of INDIA.

WE deeply lament the crils and misery which have been brought upon INDIA by the acts of ambitious Men, who have deceived their Countrymen by false reports, and led them into open Rebellion. Our Power has been shown by the Suppression of that Rebellion in the field; WE desire to show our Mercy, by pardoning the Offences of those who have been thus misled, but who desire to return to the path of Duty.

Already in one Province, with a view to stop the further effusion of blood, and to hasten the Pacification of Our Indian Dominions, Our Viceroy and Governor General has held out the expectation of Pardon, on certain terms, to the great majority of those who, in the late unhappy Disturbances, have been guilty of Offences against our Government, and has declared the Punishment which will be inflicted on those whose Crimes place them beyond the reach of Forgiveness. Wa approve and confirm the said act of Our Viceroy and Governor General, and do further announce and proclaim as follows:—

Our Clemency will be extended to all Offenders, save and except those who have been, or shall be, convicted of having directly taken part in the Murder of British Subjects. With regard to such, the demands of Justice forbid the exercise of Mercy.

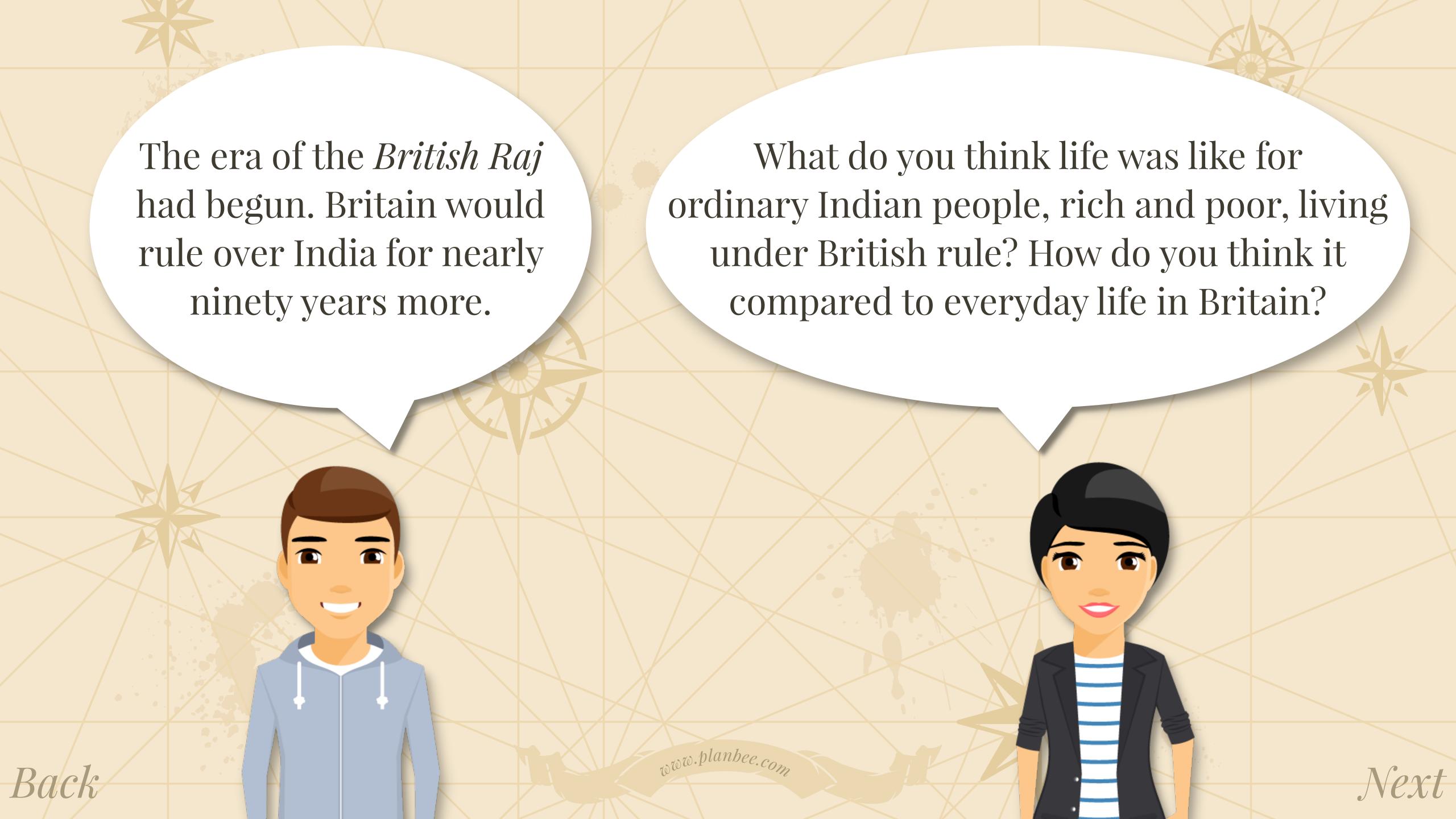
To those who have willingly given asylum to Murderers, knowing them to be such, or who may have acted as Leaders or Instigators in Revolt, their Lives alone can be guaranteed; but in apportioning the Penalty due to such Persons, full consideration will be given to the circumstances under which they have been induced to throw off their Allegiance, and large indulgence will be shown to those whose Crimes may appear to have originated in too credulous acceptance of the false reports circulated by designing Men.

To all others in Arms against the Government, WE hereby promise unconditional Pardon, Amnesty, and Oblivion of all Offence against Ourselves, Our Crown and Diguity, on their return to their homes and peaceful pursuits.

It is Our Royal Pleasure that these Terms of Grace and Amnesty should be extended to all those who comply with their Conditions before the First Day of January next.

When, by the Blessing of PROVIDENCE, internal Tranquillity shall be restored, it is Our earnest Desire to stimulate the peaceful Industry of INDIA, to promote Works of Public Utility and Improvement, and to administer its Government for the benefit of all Our Subjects resident therein. In their Prosperity will be Our Strength; in their Contentment, Our Security; and in their Gratitude, Our best Reward. And may the God of all Power grant to Us, and to those in authority under Us, Strength to carry out these Our Wishes for the good of Our People.

The revolt convinced the British that the East India Company's rule in India had to end. They believed that the violence could have been avoided had the company ruled better. Queen Victoria signed the Government of India Act 1858, which made her, and her government, rulers of India.



What was life like for people living in India under British rule? How do you think it compared to everyday life in Britain?

British people living and working in India.

Rich and powerful Indian people.

Poor Indian people.

Indian men.

Indian women.

Indian children.

Today we will be finding out more about what life was like for each of these groups of people.