

Name _____



Empires Expanding

Directions: Read the passage below about European imperialism. Then, answer the comprehension questions that follow in complete sentences. Use details from the text to support your answers.

During the 1800s, European powers raced to claim territories across Africa and Asia in what became known as the "Age of Imperialism." Countries like Britain, France, and Belgium built vast empires by taking control of lands rich in resources such as gold, rubber, and cotton. European leaders claimed they were bringing "civilization" and "progress" to these regions, but their actions often disrupted traditional societies and caused great suffering.

In many colonies, Europeans built railways, schools, and ports to expand trade and maintain control. However, these improvements mainly benefited European economies rather than the people who lived there. Indigenous communities lost their land, were forced into labor, and saw their cultures and languages pushed aside. Some resisted through rebellions and uprisings, while others adapted to survive within the new systems of power.

By the early 1900s, nearly every region of Africa and much of Asia was under European rule. The effects of this era can still be seen today in language, government systems, and economic inequalities that trace back to imperial times.

1. What was the "Age of Imperialism"?
2. Why did European countries want to claim territories in Africa and Asia?
3. What were some ways Europeans changed life in the colonies?
4. How did Indigenous people respond to European imperialism?
5. What are some lasting effects of European imperialism mentioned in the passage?
6. Do you think the "progress" Europeans claimed to bring was fair to the people they ruled? Explain your answer.