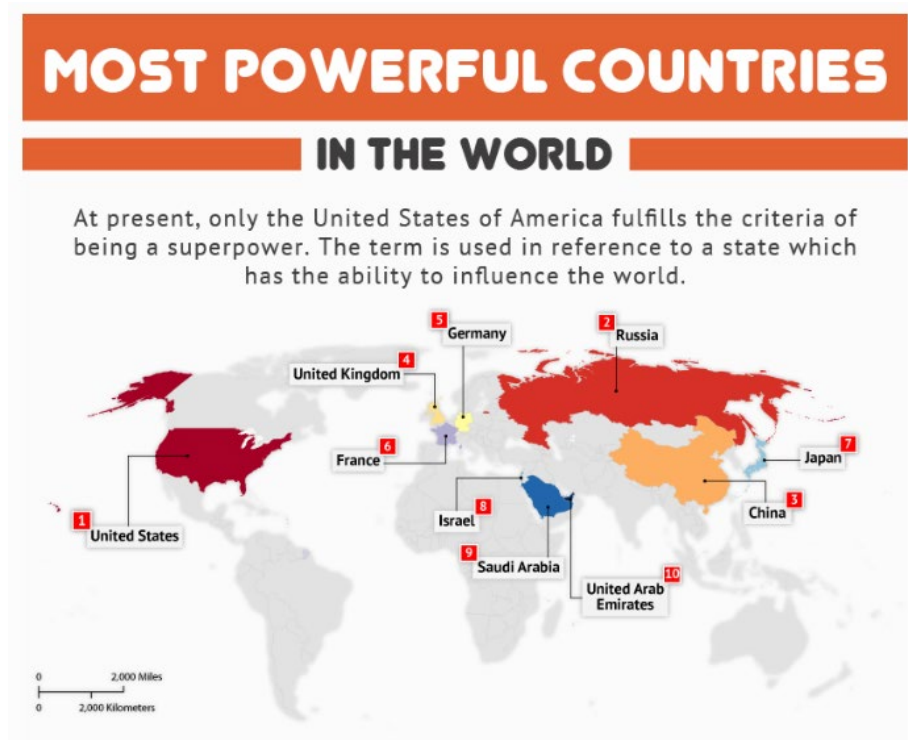




### Blended Learning Booklet

### Political Powerhouses



Name:

Form:

*Aim to complete one lesson each week. Write out the title and LI and then complete the tasks. Upload all work onto ClassCharts for feedback.*

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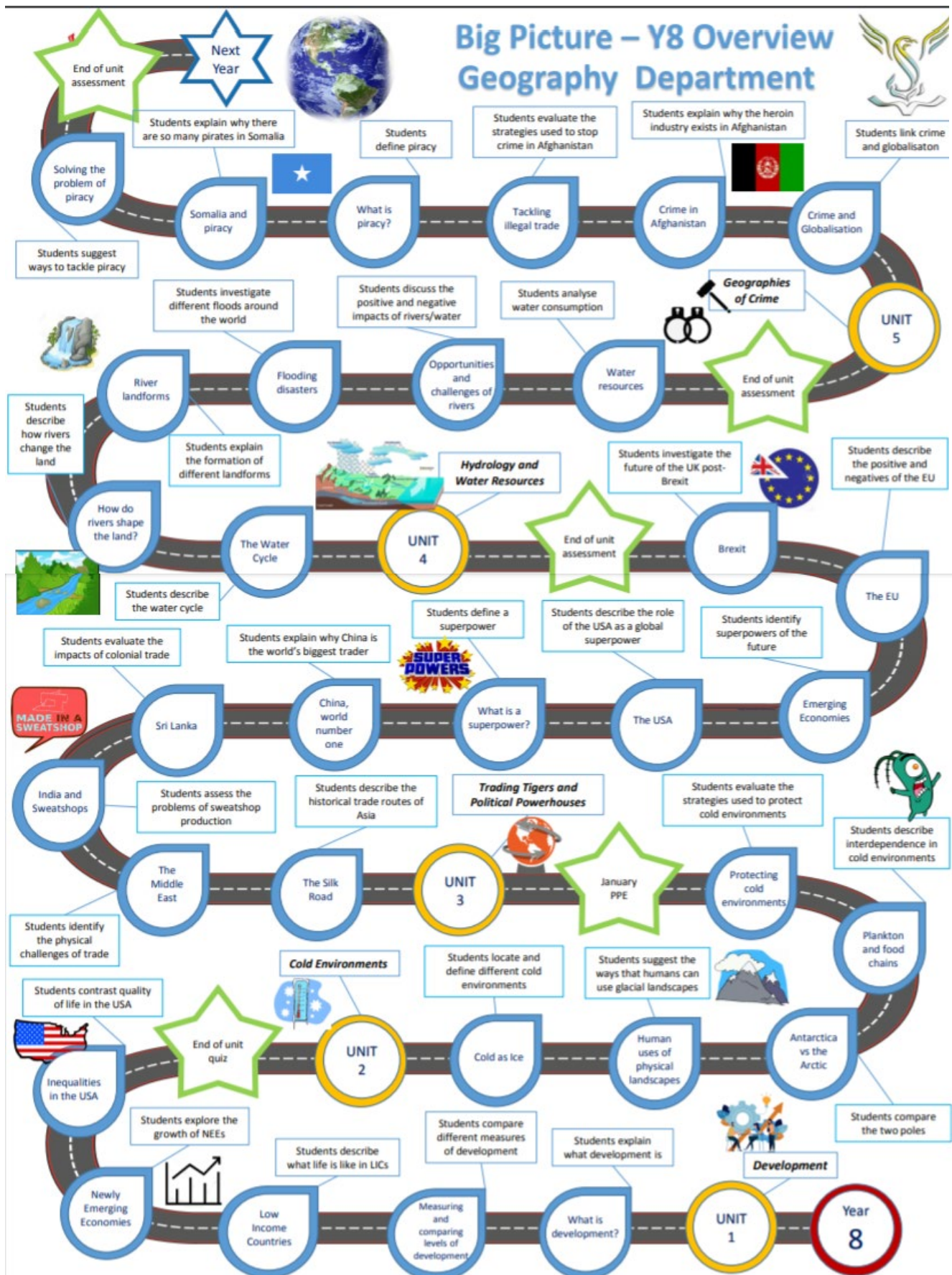
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## Lesson One: What is a superpower?

**LI:** To describe what is required to be a global superpower

Every country wants to know where they stand in the world. Who is number one?

**Task 1:** Imagine it was possible to line up all the countries of the world, with the most important first.
















































































1. Who do you think would go first?
2. What countries would be a long way back?
3. Where would you expect the UK to be?

We have lots of ways that we can rank countries. We can rank them by birth rates, population sizes literacy rates etc.

**Task 2:** Look at these countries below. This is the bottom half of a rank showing the most peaceful countries to the least peaceful countries.

**Q.** What does 'least peaceful countries' mean?

**Q.** Are there any countries on this list that surprises you?

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE
85	 Bolivia	2.044	↓ 4	113	 El Salvador	2.262	↑ 2	141	 India	2.605	↓ 4
86	 Kosovo	2.049	↑ 8	114	 Guatemala	2.264	↓ 4	142	 Palestine	2.608	↓ 2
87	 Haiti	2.052	↔	115	 Turkmenistan	2.265	↑ 4	143	 Colombia	2.661	↑ 2
88	 Paraguay	2.055	↓ 12	116	 Brazil	2.271	↓ 10	144	 Venezuela	2.671	↓ 2
89	 Cambodia	2.066	↑ 8	116	 Thailand	2.278	↓ 3	145	 Mali	2.710	↑ 2
90	 Morocco	2.070	↓ 13	118	 Armenia	2.294	↑ 3	146	 Israel	2.735	↑ 1
91	 Cuba	2.073	↓ 7	119	 Kenya	2.300	↑ 1	147	 Lebanon	2.800	↓ 26
92	 Guyana	2.075	↓ 9	120	 Nicaragua	2.312	↓ 54	148	 Nigeria	2.898	↔
93	 Trinidad and Tobago	2.094	↓ 7	121	 Rep of the Congo	2.323	↑ 1	149	 North Korea	2.921	↑ 1
94	 Mozambique	2.099	↓ 9	122	 Mauritania	2.333	↑ 5	150	 Ukraine	2.950	↑ 2
95	 Kyrgyz Republic	2.105	↑ 13	123	 Honduras	2.341	↓ 7	151	 Sudan	2.995	↑ 3
96	 Gabon	2.112	↓ 1	124	 Bahrain	2.357	↑ 5	152	 Turkey	3.015	↓ 3
97	 Belarus	2.115	↑ 4	125	 Myanmar	2.393	↓ 2	153	 Pakistan	3.072	↓ 2
98	 Papua New Guinea	2.118	↓ 2	126	 Niger	2.394	↑ 6	154	 Russia	3.093	↓ 1
99	 Georgia	2.122	↑ 3	127	 South Africa	2.399	↓ 2	155	 Dem. Rep of the Congo	3.218	↔
100	 Guinea	2.125	↔	128	 USA	2.401	↓ 4	156	 Libya	3.285	↑ 1
101	 Bangladesh	2.128	↓ 9	129	 Saudi Arabia	2.409	↓ 1	157	 Central African Rep	3.296	↓ 1
102	 Uzbekistan	2.166	↑ 2	130	 Azerbaijan	2.425	↑ 3	158	 Somalia	3.300	↑ 1
103	 Lesotho	2.167	↑ 1	131	 Ethiopia	2.434	↔	159	 Iraq	3.369	↑ 1
104	 Burkina Faso	2.176	↓ 26	132	 Zimbabwe	2.463	↓ 6	160	 Yemen	3.412	↓ 2
≈105	 Tajikistan	2.196	↑ 12	133	 Eritrea	2.504	↑ 6	161	 South Sudan	3.526	↔
≈105	 Uganda	2.196	↑ 2	134	 Philippines	2.516	↑ 4	162	 Syria	3.566	↑ 1
107	 Cote d'Ivoire	2.203	↑ 4	135	 Burundi	2.520	↑ 1	163	 Afghanistan	3.574	↓ 1
108	 Togo	2.205	↓ 9	136	 Egypt	2.521	↑ 7				
109	 Djibouti	2.207	↑ 4	137	 Chad	2.522	↓ 2				
110	 China	2.217	↑ 2	138	 Cameroon	2.538	↓ 4				
111	 Algeria	2.219	↓ 2	139	 Iran	2.542	↓ 9				
112	 Guinea-Bissau	2.237	↑ 6	140	 Mexico	2.600	↑ 1				

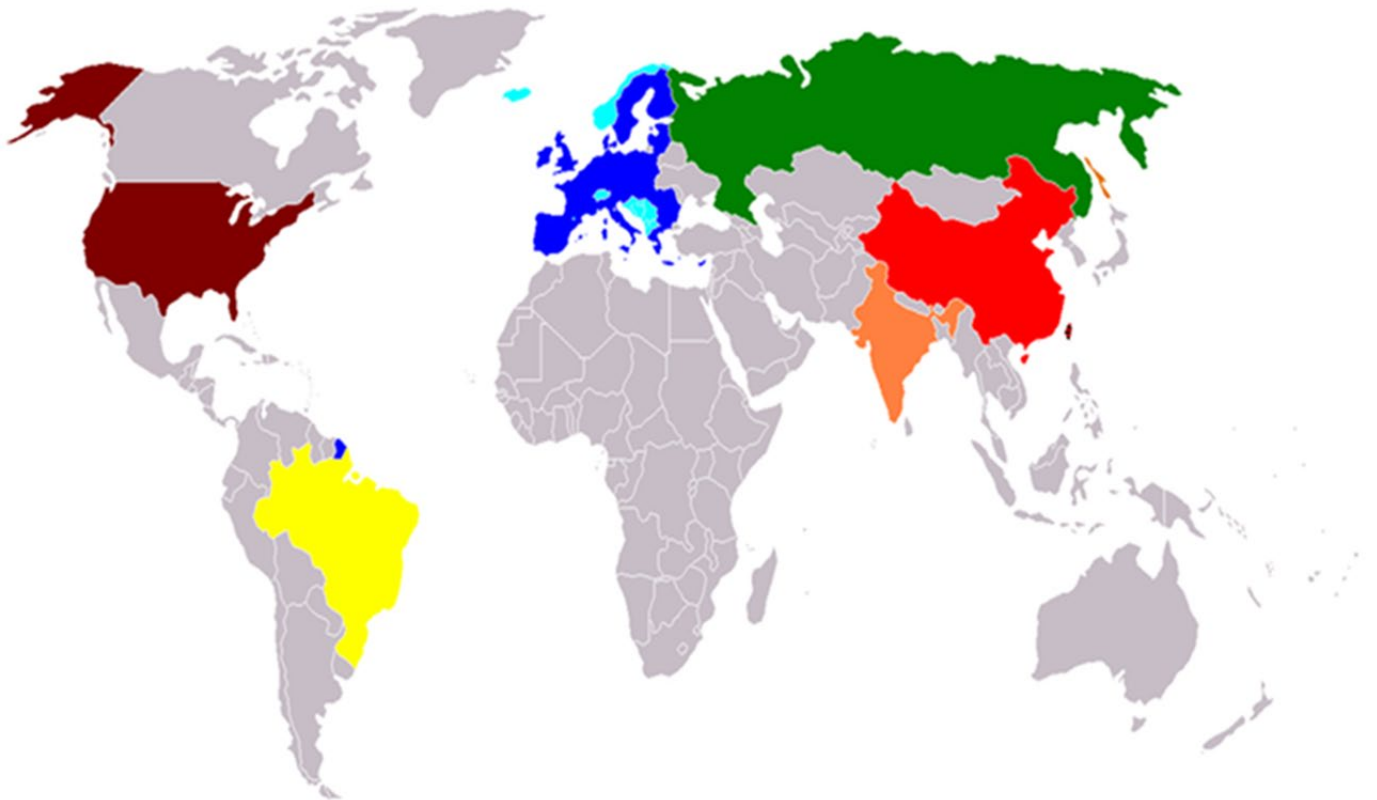
We can see some HIC countries on our list above, as they often have influence over the NEE and LIC countries of the world. Countries that either have or have had influence over many countries are called **superpowers**. Currently there is probably only one, the USA, but others are emerging.





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**Task 3:** Use the map below to identify the emerging superpowers of the world. What countries are highlighted?



But what makes a country a superpower?

Think first: What makes a football team successful?



E.g. They turn up regularly for training

Now: What makes a country successful?



E.g. cultural influence

## Superpower countries have:

- Cultural influence
- Large populations
- Political influence
- Large economy
- Military strength

**Task 4:** Watch the following video and note down the countries thought to be the next superpowers, and what they are lacking to become one. Refer to the conditions above needed to become a superpower to help you.

Watch this video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7\\_aKYU95jk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7_aKYU95jk)

**EXT:** Is the UK a superpower? Why? Why not?

## Lesson Two: USA – The World's Only Superpower

**LI:** To explain how the USA has become the world's most powerful country

**Task 1:** 'Pointless' Activity – How many of these people and places can you work out? They are all linked with the USA.

B \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_, a past president

T \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_, a famous building

D \_\_\_\_\_, a theme park

M \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_, a volcano that erupted in 1980

A \_\_\_\_\_, the northern-most state

G \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_, founding father of the country

B \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_, where celebrities live

How come we know so much about the USA? What condition of being a world superpower does this fulfil?

**Task 2:** Describe the location of the USA.



Think: What continent is it on? What countries does it share a border with? What oceans does it have access to?

The USA obviously has much cultural and political significance globally. We follow its government elections, we watch American movies and shows, we know its holidays, and we study its history. You probably knew all the answers to Task 1 above. But how, and why, did the USA become so powerful? How did it become The Superpower?

**Task 3:** Watch the video below, and note down some key points about how the USA has risen to the number one position. Think about: Was it in a good position after the war? What major organisations was it involved in/responsible for creating?

How American Became a Superpower: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BShvYeyMm\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BShvYeyMm_Y)



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**Task 4:** There are four short DARTs following. Each details a reason the USA became powerful. Summarise each of these DARTs in one sentence.

## 1. Because World War I devastated Europe — and not the US

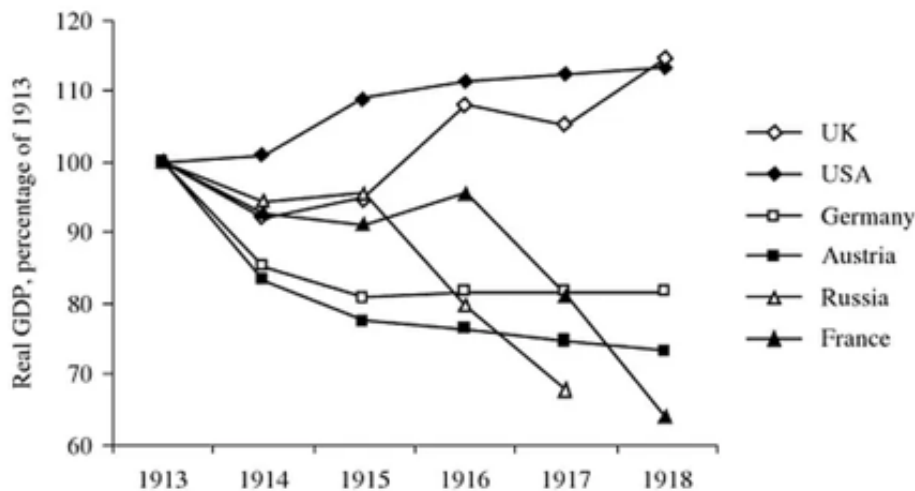
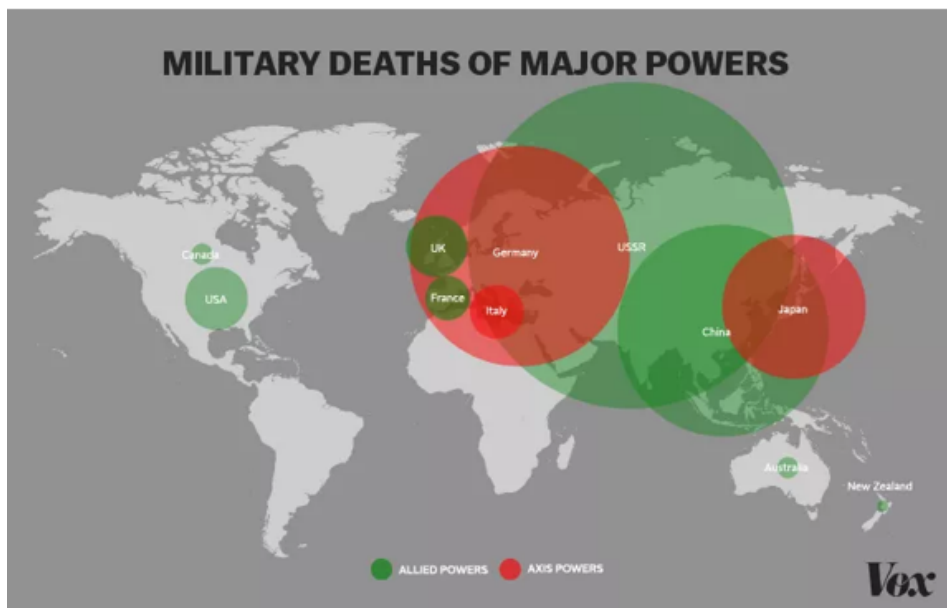


Figure 1.1. The wartime change in GDP: six countries

For centuries, the world had been divided among several competing global powers. No one country had hope of becoming the sole global superpower in such a system. World War I was the beginning of the end of that era. These six dots represent not just the major participants in the first World War, but the countries that, at the time, were the world's great powers. A seventh great power, the Ottoman Empire, was dismantled outright as a result of the war. As you can see, the destruction of the war and the massive war debts absolutely devastated the economies of the great powers — except, that is, for the United States and the still-mighty British Empire.

## 2. Because World War II devastated Europe and Asia



It is impossible to fully capture the toll of the second world war, but this map of military deaths can help us see the impact. While the war was terribly costly for all involved, the human cost was disproportionately felt by the two primary Axis powers — Germany and Japan — and particularly by the Soviets and Chinese, as well as by other countries in Eastern Europe and East Asia caught in the war machines. These military deaths merely hint at the much larger death toll in both continents from war, famine, and genocide, as well as economic and ecological devastation. While Americans paid dearly, as well — enduring the deaths of 400,000 military personnel — the US came out of the war far more

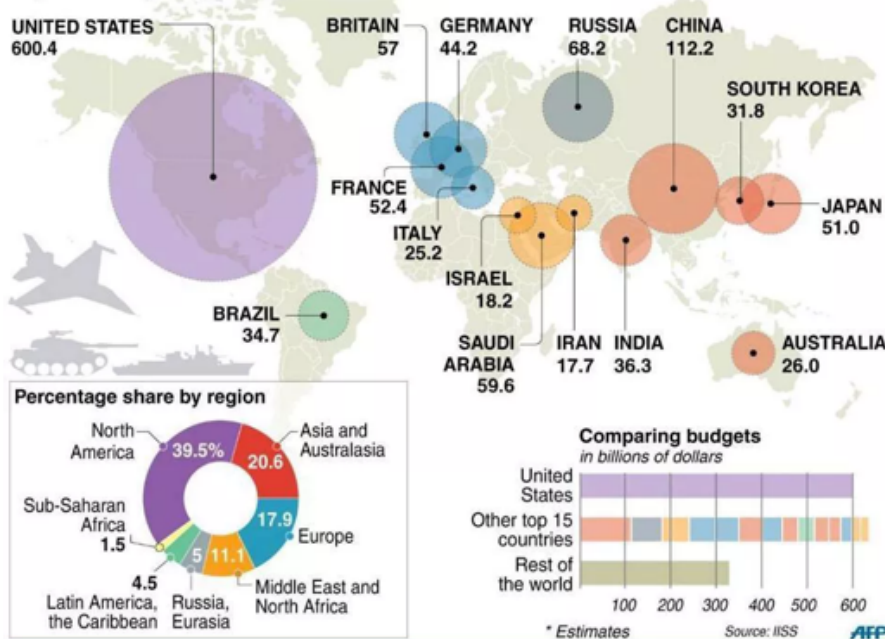
powerful as a result of everyone else's major losses.

3. By outspending the next dozen countries combined on defense

## Defence budgets across the world

Budgets are rising for the first time in five years

**Top 15 military budgets 2013\*** *in billions of dollars*



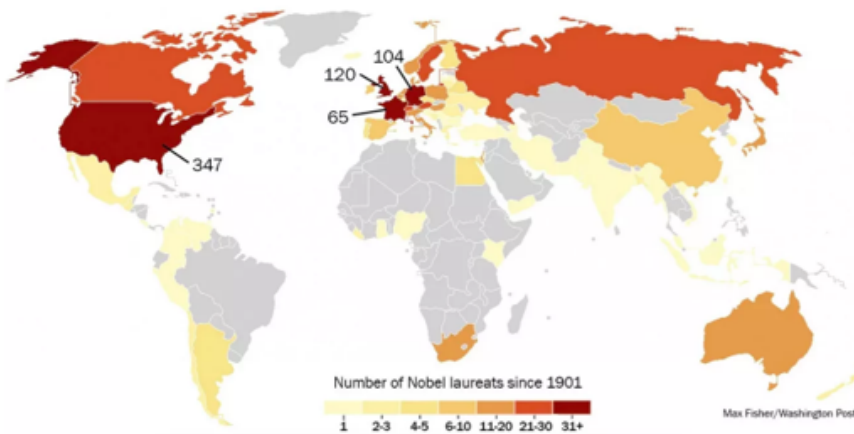
Another way to show America's status as the sole global superpower is its military budget: larger than the next 12 largest military budgets on Earth, combined. That's partly a legacy of the Cold War, but it's also a reflection of the role the US has taken on as the guarantor of global security and the international order. For example, since 1979, the US has made it official military policy to protect oil shipments out of the Persian Gulf — something from which the whole world benefits. At the same time, other powers are rapidly growing their militaries. China and Russia in particular are rapidly modernising and expanding their armed forces, implicitly challenging global American dominance and the US-led order.

#### 4. Because of America's scientific edge

— and its democracy, creativity, and

draw for immigrants

The US is so powerful for reasons other than its size, its military might, and its global system of alliances and bases — although those are certainly important. There is also America's tremendous advantage in scientific research, which both furthers and is an expression of its technological and economic lead on much of the rest of the world; it's also an



indicator of innovation more broadly. An imperfect but revealing shorthand for that is the US's tremendous lead in Nobel prizes from its 1901 inception through 2013. The US has won many Nobels mostly in the sciences; the US thus accounts for 4 percent of the world population but 34 percent of its Nobel laureates. This is the result of many factors: wealth, a culture and economy that encourage innovation, education, vast state- and private-funded research programs, and a political culture that has long attracted highly educated migrants. All of those factors contribute to American wealth and thus power in more ways than just Nobel prizes, but the sheer number of US laureates is a sign of the American advantage there.

**Task 5:** Explain, using examples, how the United States has risen to power and describe why it remains the world's most powerful country. (6 marks + 3 SPaG)



## Lesson 3: Emerging Economies: Brazil

**LI:** To identify the importance of emerging superpowers, like Brazil

We already know that Brazil is an NEE, or a newly emerging economy. NEEs are experiencing rapid economic growth and the quality of life of the people who live there is improving. It's important to study these countries, because their place in the world could be very different in years to come. Let's start by looking at Brazil.

**Task 1:** Describe the location of Brazil in three sentences. (Check back to your lesson on the USA to find some hints on what three things to say.)



**Task 2:** Watch the following video which describes Brazil's geopolitical importance and why it dominates the South American continent.

Will Brazil become a superpower? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glT9NIJfZKY>

**Task 3:** Using the information in the video, describe Brazil's importance globally in two paragraphs.

Think about: How large is Brazil? What resources does Brazil have? What does Brazil trade? What is Brazil's water situation? What is its climate like? What problems does Brazil have? What is its military like?



## Lesson 4: The European Union

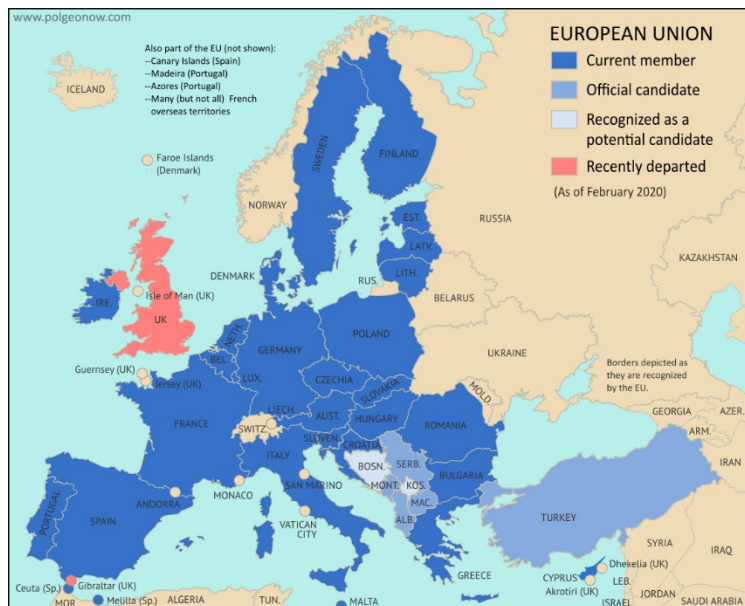
**LI: To describe the positives and negatives of the European Union**

**Most countries in Europe would struggle to become a single superpower, but when they combine together they create a strong union.**

The European Union is a unique economic and political union between EU countries that together cover much of the continent of Europe. The predecessor of the EU was created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The UK departed from the union in 2020 in a process known as Brexit.

**Task 1: How many countries are in the EU?**

The European Union is one way to link European countries together, and previously linked the UK to Europe.



**Task 2: Read through the following political, economic, transport and communication links of the EU. Summarise each paragraph into one sentence.**

### Political links

In 2014, 28 countries of Europe were member states of the European Union(EU).

All member states of the EU aim to work closely with other members and there are some laws that apply in an EU country because it is a member. The European Council is made up of the heads of states of EU countries and, in 2014, the European Parliament consists of 756 MEPs (Members of European Parliament) from EU countries. All member states are represented in these groups. The UK has over 70 seats in the European Parliament.

The EU also sets goals and targets for looking after the environment. One initiative is a policy developed in 2008 to combat climate change. It aims to:

- cut greenhouse gases by 20 per cent by 2020
- cut energy use by 20 per cent by 2020
- make sure that 20 per cent of energy use comes from renewable sources

### Economic links

The Euro is a form of currency. Many EU members use it because it helps to make trade easier between member states. The group of countries that use the Euro are called the 'Eurozone'.

Outside of the EU, the state of other countries' economies in Europe has continental and global effects. For example, in 2008 there was a financial crisis in Iceland. Iceland is not in the EU but this still affected many European countries.

### Transport links

Transport links have increased between European countries due to:

- The rise of budget airlines, making short-distance flights more economical.
- The Channel tunnel, Europe's longest tunnel, built in 1994. It goes under the sea between England and France and was built for high-speed trains.
- The EU allowing freer movement of people between member states.

## Communication links

Communication links allow information to be exchanged between people in different countries, such as:

- mobile phones
- internet
- satellite TV

There are only three time zones in Europe, which means most business hours in the week overlap between countries.

**Task 3:** Watch the following video, then answer this questions: What are three positive and three negatives of the European Union? Does the UK need the European Union?

Is the European Union Worth It Or Should We End It?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxutY7ss1v4>

## **Lesson 5: Brexit**

**LI: To investigate the advantages and disadvantages of Brexit**

**Task 1:** Write down your own definition for 'Brexit' and another for the 'European Union'.



Brexit is the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union.

Brexit is a word made up to describe the “British Exit” from the European Union (EU). In a vote on June 23, 2016, more than half of the people of the United Kingdom (UK) chose to leave the EU.

To decide about Brexit, the UK held a special kind of vote called a “referendum”. The results were close to tied. 51.9% of the people who voted wanted to leave. People had different reasons for wanting to leave the EU. Many people wanted to limit immigrants – people who come to the UK from other countries. Some people in the UK wanted to be independent of Europe. Some people thought that leaving the EU would be better for businesses in the UK.

Nearly half of the voters did not vote to leave the EU. These people thought it was better for the UK to stay as a part of the EU.



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**Task 2:** Have a read of the timeline of events that led to the UK officially leaving the EU on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Timeline here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/50166269>

**Task 3:** Sort the statements about Brexit into advantages and disadvantages of the UK leaving the European Union. Ext: Do you think all these statements are likely to be true? How do we judge the strength of a statement?

Britain may not have to pay expensive fees to trade goods. Could increase profits.

London would no longer be the EU's financial hub and have that status.

EU students can apply to study at any university in the EU and pay the same fees as nationals. This would stop for UK students if we left.

The UK could use fees paid to the EU towards the UK instead.

The UK would get more say over immigration and border policies.

People who live in the EU will no longer have freedom to live, work and retire anywhere in Europe.

**Task 4:** Now Brexit has occurred, have you noticed any changes? Outline these changes in three sentences.

## Lesson 6: Assessment

LI: To assess our learning of the superpowers topic.

This is an open book assessment. Try to complete the assessment in 40 minutes and upload your completed assessment to ClassCharts. You can type or write your assessment answers.

**Q. To what extent is the UK, or has the UK been, a world superpower? (9 marks + 3SPaG)**

You may use any resource available to you, including this BLB and the internet, to answer your question. Your answer should be between 12-20 lines of work.

Remember, superpower countries have:

- Cultural influence
- Large populations
- Political influence
- Large economy
- Military strength



Superpowers		
Assessment criteria – Is the UK a superpower?		
Level	Marks	Description
<b>3</b> (Detailed)  Yellow Plus	7-9	AO1 Demonstrates excellent knowledge of what a superpower is and uses examples to show this  AO2 Shows accurate geographical understanding of the characteristics of a superpower and explains how different characteristics make the UK a superpower or not.  AO3 A clear judgement is made and appropriate knowledge and examples are used to back this up. (Justification is detailed)
<b>2</b> (Clear)  Yellow/Blue	4-6	AO1 Demonstrates good knowledge of what a superpower is and uses some examples to show this.  AO2 Shows clear geographical understanding of the characteristics of a superpower and explains how different characteristics make the UK a superpower or not.  AO3 A judgement is made and appropriate knowledge and examples are used to back this up (Justification is well supported)
<b>1</b> (Basic)  Green/White	1-3	AO1 Demonstrates limited knowledge of what a superpower is and uses few examples to show this.  AO2 Shows some geographical understanding of the characteristics of a superpower and attempts to explain how different characteristics make the UK a superpower or not.  AO3 A limited judgement is made and knowledge and examples do not clearly back up the opinion. (Justification is simple)