

23rd Commonwealth Games (July 24, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? The Commonwealth Games, a major sporting competition organized every four years by the Commonwealth, an association of 56 countries spread across the globe.

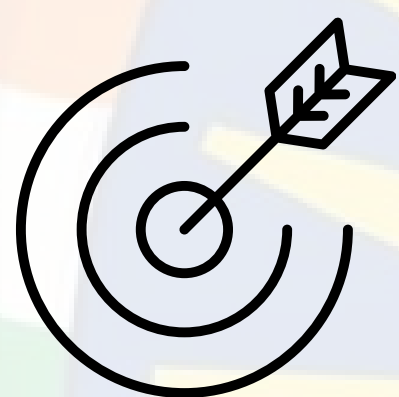
Who? Athletes from 74 nations and territories, almost all of which were once part of the British Empire.

Where? In Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, where all the events are concentrated in just four competition venues.

When? From July 23 to August 2, 2026.

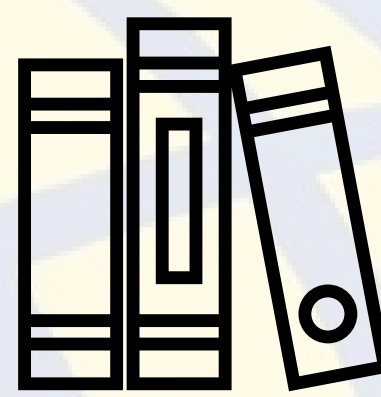
Why is it important? Because the 56 Commonwealth countries together have 2.7 billion inhabitants—about one in three people on Earth—and these Games are one of the few occasions when they all come together in one place.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about the Commonwealth.



OBJECTIVES

- Discover the origins of the Commonwealth through the history of the British Empire.
- Locate countries on a world map using geographical and historical clues.
- Read and interpret statistical data in the form of percentages.
- Use Google Earth to explore a city and measure distances.



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Writing (Short Answers)
- **Mathematics**
 - Calculating Percentages
 - Reading Pie Charts and Bar Charts
 - Division
- **Social Studies / Geography**
 - British Empire
 - Commonwealth
 - Countries and Territories of the World
 - Map Reading



COMPETENCIES

- Researching and interpreting information
- Reading and understanding informational texts
- Reading and interpreting graphs (pie charts, bar graphs)
- Performing simple calculations (percentages, division)
- Using a digital geography tool



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they have ever heard of the Commonwealth or the Commonwealth Games.
- Show them a world map and ask them to name countries that were colonized by England.
- Ask them what remains today of the former British Empire.
- Gather their hypotheses: why would former colonized countries choose to remain associated?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — An Empire on Which the Sun Never Sets. Identification of six countries on a map of the British Empire in 1921, using Google Earth and geographical and historical clues.

Q1 — C

Q2 — F

Q3 — B

Q4 — A

Q5 — E

Q6 — D

STEP 2 — The Commonwealth in Percentages. Comparison of Commonwealth passport data with worldwide data using charts and a graph.

Q7 — $56 \div (56 + 139) \times 100 = 28.7\%$

Q8 — Incorrect. $2.7 \div 8.2 \times 100 = 32.9\%$, not 25%.

Q9 — $32 \div (32 + 117) \times 100 = 21.5\%$

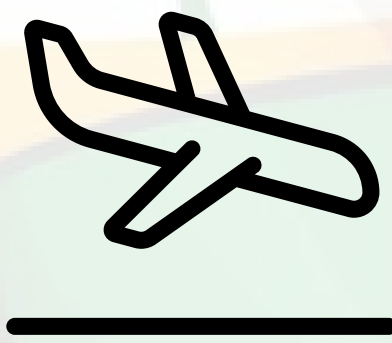
STEP 3 — Glasgow, the Host City. Exploration of Glasgow with Google Earth and use the Ruler tool to measure the distances between the competition venues.

Q10 — Approximately 4 kilometers.

Q11 — Approximately 2 kilometers.

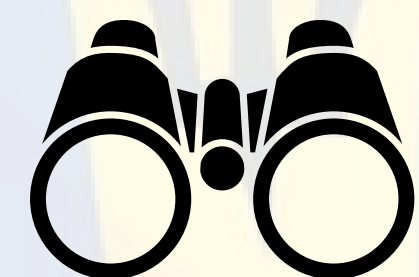
Q12 — Approximately 11 kilometers.

Q13 — The River Clyde.



WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group discussion about what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them most (the size of the Empire, the proportions of the Commonwealth, the proximity of the sites to Glasgow).
- Ask: Why do countries from a former colonial empire choose to remain associated with it today?
- Make connections with other international organizations they are familiar with (UN, Francophonie).



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 *Our Story, Our World, Our Commonwealth: The story of 56 countries.* The Commonwealth.

<https://thecommonwealth.org/publications/our-story-our-world>

