

## **SIMULATION: SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA**

Directions: Divide the class into groups of four students each. Provide each group with one map of Africa, seven colored markers (brown, red, blue, green, orange, purple and yellow) and a 1" X 1/2" rectangle cut from a note card. The markers will be used to color portions of the map as each country claims territory and the rectangle will be used to determine the area acquired. In each group, one student will represent Britain throughout the simulation and will use the red marker. A second student in each group will represent France throughout the simulation and will use the blue marker. The remaining two students will collaborate in representing Portugal in the first two rounds and use the brown marker. These two students will separate during the third round. One will represent Belgium (green marker) and Spain (purple marker) and the other will represent Germany (orange marker) and Italy (yellow marker). The simulation specifies the order in which each country establishes port facilities/colonial claims and the amount of territory to be acquired. The student representing that country will decide the location of the new port/colony and will use the appropriate marker to color the territory.

**ROUND 1 - 1500 to 1815** Africa has many powerful kingdoms that would be difficult to conquer and European countries are uninterested in African colonies at this time. The power of the Ottoman Empire (north coast of Africa) and Ethiopia make those areas unavailable for European acquisition.

Portugal - You are the first to explore the coast of Africa. You have little interest in Africa itself because your major interest is trade with Asia. Therefore, you are looking for port locations which will facilitate your ships traveling around Africa to Asia. Place six brown dots on the map to signify the locations where you establish your facilities.

Dutch - The Dutch settlement of the southern tip of Africa has important historical ramifications but is largely irrelevant to this simulation so it has been ignored.

Britain and France - You have little interest in Africa itself because your primary concern is for your American colonies and your trade with India. You see Africa as a trade route to India and as a source for slaves to work on sugar, cotton and tobacco plantations in the Americas. Britain places four red dots and France places 4 blue dots at port locations which will facilitate the collection of slaves or trade with India. Britain and France alternate placing their dots with Britain going first and each can take one Portuguese port if they choose to do so.

**ROUND 2 - 1815 to 1875** Africa continues to have many powerful kingdoms but European countries only need to control the coastline and river mouths to have trade access to the natural resources of the interior. The Ottoman Empire (north coast between ports) and Ethiopia continue to be unavailable for European acquisition.

Portugal - You are becoming more interested in trade with Africans so you expand your influence around your ports. Color a 1/2" length of the coast adjacent to four of your ports brown.

Britain and France - You are experiencing the Industrial Revolution so you are now more interested in Africa for its natural resources and as a place to establish settlements. You also have worldwide trade networks and you want to protect your trade routes to Asia. Since you want to avoid diplomatic tension or war in Europe, you will not take territory too close to that of another European country. Britain and France alternate coloring four 1/2 inch strips of coast in their color (red or blue) on the map at locations that secure natural resources, allow for settlement and protect trade routes. This territory could be adjacent to the ports you already have or in new areas. Since France is more interested in European affairs, her territory should come primarily in the northern half of Africa.

**ROUND 3 - 1875 to 1895** No restrictions on available territory. Colonial claims must have a port or coast to start from or be extensions of territories already controlled.

Britain - You want to secure the Suez Canal route to India so you take over Egypt. Color a 1" square of red on Egypt.

Belgium - You came into the race late because you are a small country which only got its independence in 1830. However, you are highly industrialized and desirous of African natural resources. Your weakness as a power will restrict you to only one colony but if you act fast you can grab some valuable territory before the major powers catch on. Color an area equal to about 1" square green at one location that is not already claimed.

Germany - You came into the game late because you were not even a unified country until 1871. You have emerged as the major military power in Europe, you are very industrialized and you are interested in developing your world trade. You desire African colonies for their natural resources and for

ports that will support your trade. Your pride as a major power demands that you have colonies like the other major powers and that upstart Belgium has just grabbed a chunk of territory. You had better act fast. Color three areas on the map orange (each area being about 1" by 1/2") to secure resources and ports.

Britain and France - Whoa! Where did these newcomers come from gobbling up territory. If we don't act fast they will take territory we want and the intense competition could lead to war. We would like to link up our scattered colonies for defensive purposes and to enable us to build railroads which would facilitate the transportation of the natural resources. Britain and France alternate choosing four areas (about 1" by 1/2" each) and coloring them red and blue, respectively.

Spain - You have come to Africa later than the other major colonizers because you have spent most of your earlier efforts in Central and South America. You are a weak country which is primarily interested in areas that would be close to Spain. Color two areas (about 1" by 1/2") not already acquired purple.

Italy - You come into the race last and have to take what is left. Color four areas not already acquired (about 1" by 1/2") yellow.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

What factors did you consider in acquiring territories?

What factors were totally ignored in your decisions?

Your decisions created colonial boundaries that will eventually become the borders of African countries. What problems have you created in these African countries by dividing up Africa based on European needs and concerns rather than African ones?