Guided Reading on Britain’s Eastern Empire

1) Where was Britain’s overseas empire centered in 1750? Which nations was it competing with for global domination? Why did those nations lose out to Britain in the following century? (772)

2) Examine the map on page 773: a) What was the strategic importance of Malacca?

b) What islands did the British control?

c) Why was the Cape Colony so valuable to Britain? Who were the Afrikaners? Why did many depart the Cape Colony on a “Great Trek” in 1836 and 1839? What colonies did they establish there? (774)

3) Who established Singapore as a free trade port in 1824? Why did it become important? When did Britain expand into Malaya? What is the current name of that country? (774)

4) How did the Kingdom of Burma come into conflict with Britain and what was the result? When did Britain annex Burma as a colony? Why was it important to the British? Specifically, why were tropical forests, like Burma’s teak forests, so important to many countries’ ability to conduct trade? (774-775)

5) Who mapped the areas of Australia and New Zealand between 1769 and 1778? Which peoples were living in Australia and New Zealand then? Why were they vulnerable to European diseases? How much did their population decline after contact with Europeans? (775-776)
6) How did the pattern on settlement of Australia and New Zealand differ? By the late 19th century, how many immigrants had settled in these regions? (776)

7) When did Canada become a self-governing dominion? When and how did Australia and New Zealand follow the Canadian example? Why did Britain encourage these changes? (776 and 778)

8) How did settlers restrict the rights of the native peoples of Australia and New Zealand? In which ways were these colonies more progressive than Britain in terms of the rights of the settlers? (778)

Thinking question: What comparisons can you draw about the impact on native peoples between Britain’s colonization of Australia and New Zealand and their colonization of North America?