Imperialism Sources

Directions: Read the sources and answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper in complete sentences. Turn in when finished.

PART FOUR: Different Motives of the New Imperialism (The "White Man's Burden")

Some westerners felt that it was their responsibility to help "civilize" the "savage" inhabitants of colonial lands in order to make them more "modern" and European. The English writer Rudyard Kipling, for example, displayed such an attitude in his 1899 poem entitled "The White Man's Burden," the first stanza of which is printed to the right.

> *Take up the White Man's Burden—*
> *Send forth the best ye breed—*
> *Go bind your sons in exile*
> *To serve your captives' need;*
> *To wait in heavy harness*
> *On fluttered folk and wild—*
> *Your new-caught, sullen peoples*
> *Half-devil and half-child.*

Answer these questions

1. Which line in the poem describes non-white people?

2. Why do you think the author uses these words?

THE "WHITE MAN'S BURDEN" IN ADVERTISING

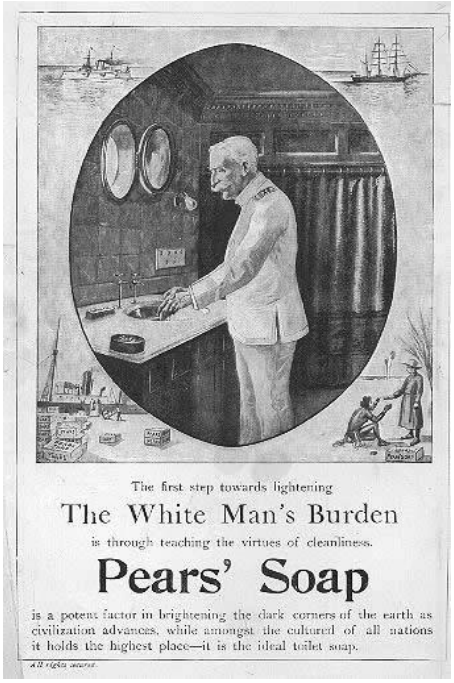
Before the advent of radio and television, companies relied heavily on posters like this to advertise their products. In this ad, the Pears' Soap company equates the use of its product with fulfilling "The White Man's Burden."

The advertisement claims that

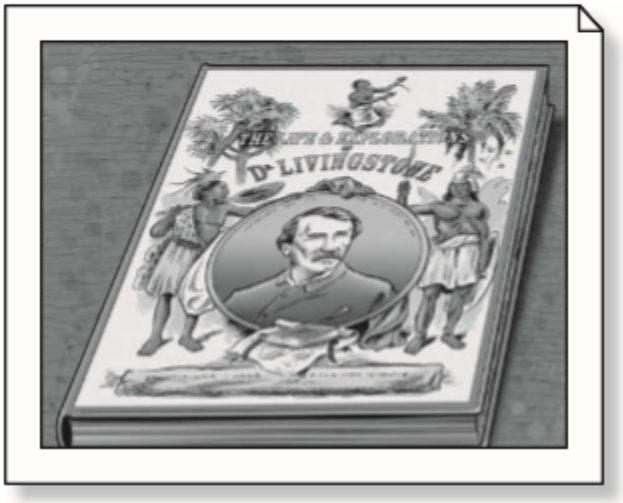
Pears' soap is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances…

3. Answer this question

What do you think the phrase "dark corners of the earth" refers to? Why?



Dr. Livingstone, I Presume?



Europeans made contact with Africans in the 1400s and traded along Africa's coasts for centuries. However, Europeans had never traveled very far beyond the coasts of the continent. In the mid-1800s Europeans began exploring Africa's interior. One of the most famous explorers was Dr. David Livingstone, a Scottish minister.

Livingstone began exploring Africa in 1841. For 30 years, he went back and forth across the continent. Livingstone's goal was to find places to set up Christian missions. He traveled by foot, canoe, and mule. During his years in Africa, Livingstone had many adventures. For example, he was attacked by a lion and fought African warriors. He got to know the native languages and cultures of the regions he explored. Livingstone fell in love with Africa.

In best-selling books, Livingstone wrote about his adventures and the beauty of Africa. Compared to his peers in Europe, Livingstone wrote about the African people with sympathy and respect. He was against the slave trade, which was still legal at the time of his travels. Livingstone thought opening Africa's interior to Christianity and trade would help to end the slave trade. He said Europeans should send missionaries and merchants to Africa in order to bring civilization to the continent.

During the late 1860s, Livingstone went into central Africa looking for the source of the Nile River. Nobody heard from him for several years, and people thought he had died. A journalist named Henry Stanley went looking for Livingstone, and in 1871, found him. Stanley greeted Livingstone with a phrase that is now famous: "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

Stanley did not share Livingstone's sympathy for Africans. He went on to work for King Leopold II of Belgium. Leopold hired Stanley to explore the Congo River Basin and arrange trade treaties with African leaders. The Congo was home to valuable natural resources, like copper and rubber. Leopold said he wanted to make life better for Africans. But, he was most interested in conquering areas and making a profit. When Leopold claimed the Congo, other European countries raced to start their own colonies in Africa.

By 1914, Africa had been divided up by Great Britain, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and Portugal. Africans were given little or no control over the governments of the colonies. Liberia and Ethiopia were the only free states left.

Dr. Livingston, I Presume?

4. Name one of the first Europeans to explore Africa.
5. What did Livingstone think would end the slave trade?
6. What was Livingstone looking for when he went to central Africa?
7. Who came looking for Livingstone?
8. Name the European countries that had divided up Africa by 1914.

British Imperialism- Political Cartoon Analysis

Analyze this cartoon by using the acronym TACOS. Answer the questions for each explanation using your knowledge and clues from the political cartoon.

Caption: The Devilfish in Egyptian Waters. Date: 1882

Summary: An American cartoon depicting John Bull (England) as the octopus of imperialism grabbing land on each continent

Time: When was the cartoon created? Look for the date. What else was happening historically at this time?

Action: What is going on in the cartoon? For example, are the people asleep, marching, fighting, angry, or laughing?

Caption: What does the cartoon label say? What do you think it means? Does the caption support the action in the cartoon? Is it critical of the action?

Objects: What familiar objects or people do you recognize in the cartoon? (Identify two or three.) Are any of the people or objects exaggerated in size or action? Do any of the objects/people lead you to recognize a point of view and/or stereotypes? Do you see objects/people that you cannot recognize? How could you find out about them?

Summary: Based on the time, action, caption, and objects, what do you think the author of the cartoon was trying to say? Try to identify the tone of the cartoon—satirical, negative, supportive, partisan, pro-American, pro-British, etc.) **Write at least 3 sentences**