

History and Geography

Unit 2

Origin of people living in Mauritius and Rodrigues



Remember

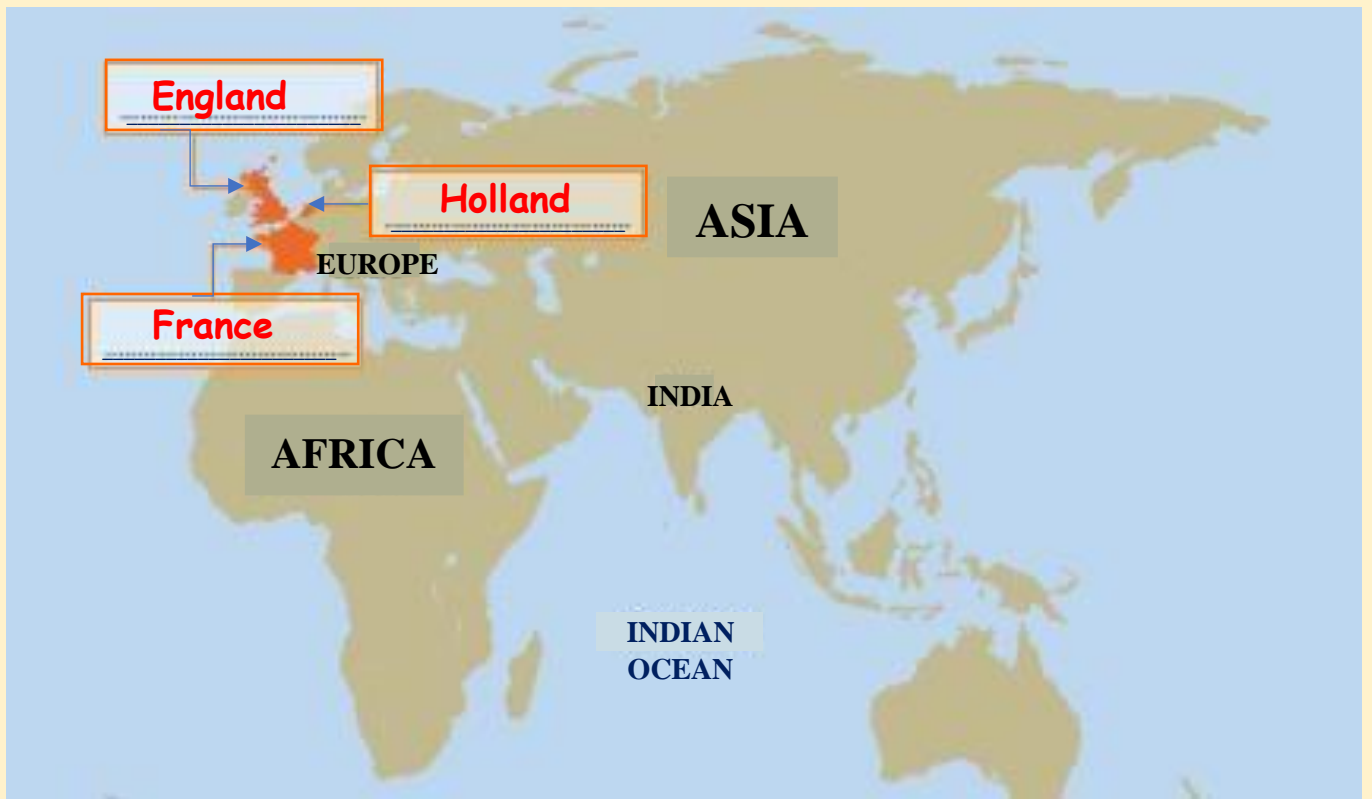
- A very long time ago, there were no inhabitants in Mauritius and Rodrigues.
- The Dutch were the first to settle in Mauritius. They were followed by the French and the British.
- Nowadays Mauritius is proud to be a multicultural country where people of different origins live peacefully.
- Our ancestors came to settle on the island for different reasons. They came from different parts of the world namely:
 - (i) Europe (mainly from France)
 - (ii) Africa (e.g. slaves were brought from Mozambique and Madagascar)
 - (iii) India (e.g. slaves and indentured labourers)
 - (iv) China (e.g. Chinese immigrants)

1. Complete the map below with:

France

England

Holland



Map showing countries from where European settlers came

DUTCH SETTLEMENT



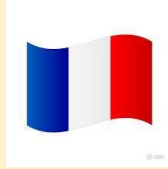
2. The Dutch Governor Van der Stel brought slaves to work in Mauritius. From which country did he bring slaves?

Madagascar.

Write **three reasons** why you think the Dutch brought slaves on the islands.

- (i) *To cut down ebony trees. / To clear forests/ To load ebony logs on ships*
- (ii) *To grow crops. / To cultivate the land.*
- (iii) *To rear animals.*

Other acceptable answers: *To build forts/houses*



FRENCH SETTLEMENT

1. Name the neighbouring island from where people came to settle on Ile de France.

Bourbon Island. Ile Bourbon

2. At first, the governors, the officials and their families, and the soldiers settled in the island. Later, more people came from Europe to settle and work on the island. Write one sentence about the role of those listed below.

- (i) The governors: (Any of the following answers)

- a To rule the island by enforcing laws/ To represent the King/the Empire/
- b To bring development in the island by encouraging the growth of agriculture and trade
- c To develop infrastructure - by building houses for the people and constructing roads to facilitate transportation.

- (ii) The officials: To carry out and enforce the laws and rules made by the governors

- (iii) The soldiers: To protect the island / To protect the island from land and sea attacks

- (iv) What work did the other settlers who came from Europe do?

Engineers, planners, architects, farmers, traders, doctors

3. Hereunder is the number of people who lived on the island during the Dutch and French periods:

Periods	Approximate number of people living in the island during
Dutch	300
French (Under Mahé de Labourdonnais)	3000
French (Under Pierre Poivre)	20000

The number of people living in Mauritius during the French period increased considerably.

Give one reason to explain why.

More slaves and workers were brought so as to develop the island/
Ile de France

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