Why did the British want to become the richest empire in the world?

1. Look at the various reasons listed below.
2. Decide which ones would be real reasons for wanting an Empire.
3. Rank them in order of importance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | They wanted people to play football with |
|  | If Britain had colonies it would be easier to sell their manufactured goods |
|  | Britain wanted access to materials like gold, precious metals and jewels |
|  | It rained too much in Britain |
|  | It was an opportunity for poorer people in Britain to make money |
|  | Cities like London were overcrowded |
|  | People in Britain wanted to experience different lifestyles and cultures |
|  | Britain wanted products they could not grow like cotton, tobacco and tea |
|  | Many Britons believed that they had a duty to spread Christianity |
|  | It would make Britain look more powerful |
|  | It would be good for other countries to share Britain’s technological advances |
|  | Britain wanted to show its power by going to war |
|  | Britain didn’t want its rivals like France and Germany to control these areas |
|  | Queen Victoria wanted to be called Empress of India |

I think the most important reason the British had an empire was . . .

This was because . . .

I think this benefitted Britain because . . .

**Key Words**

colonies - an area of land ruled by another country

technological advances - new inventions e.g. railways, that make life easier

manufactured goods - products that are made in large numbers in factories