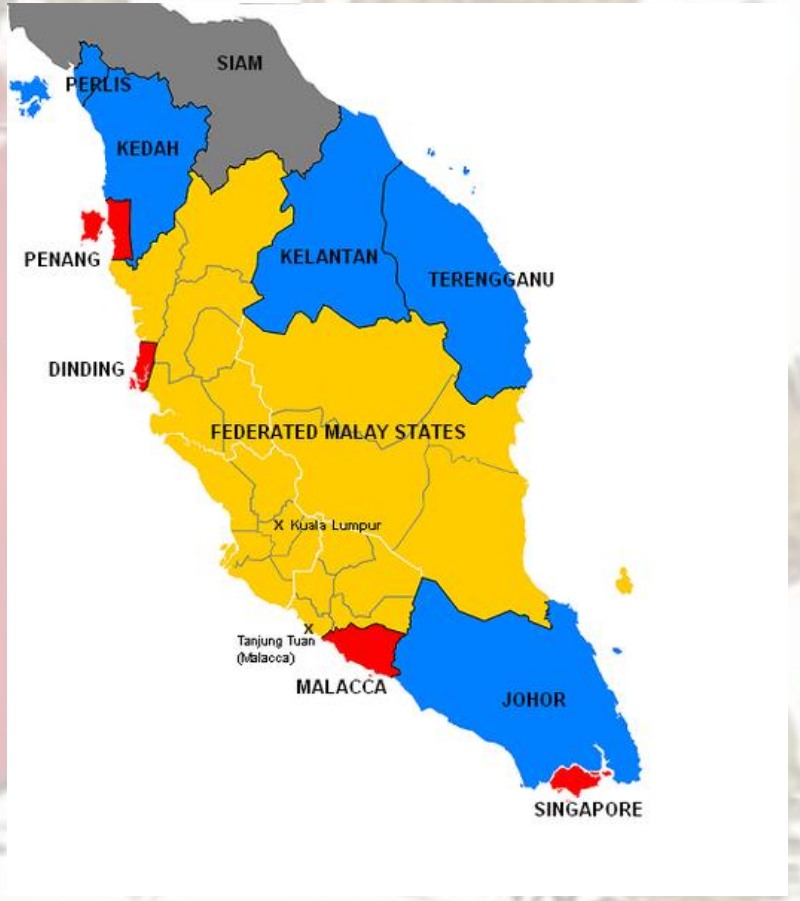
The Straits Settlements
Why Were the Brits Here?



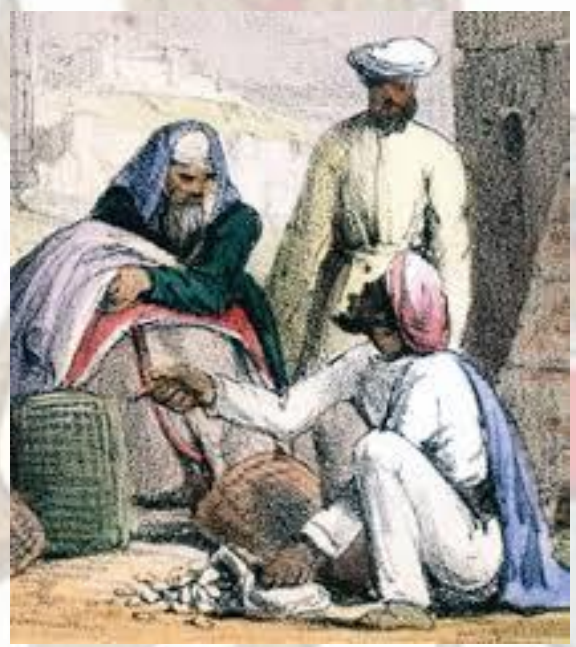
Dr. Tom

Why Were the Brits Here?

Alexander the Great

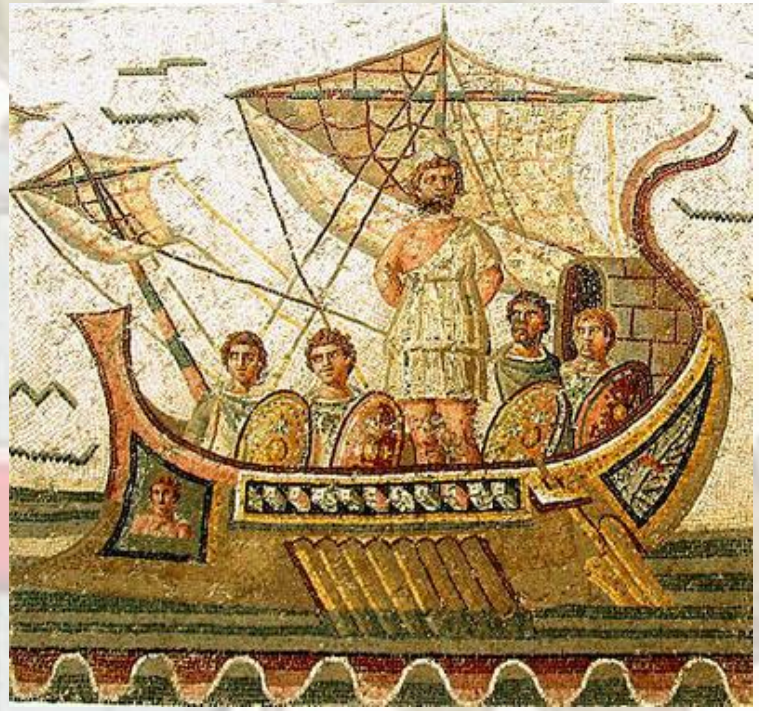
4th Century B.C.

Why Were the Brits Here?



- Middle East Spice Merchants were Trading Over 4,000 years Ago
- They Kept their Sources Secret and Mystical
- Spices included Peppercorn, Cinnamon, Cardamom, Ginger, Turmeric, Nutmeg, Cloves
- Arabs, Phoenicians, Israelites Traded with India for Spices 1,000 B.C.

Why Were the Brits Here?

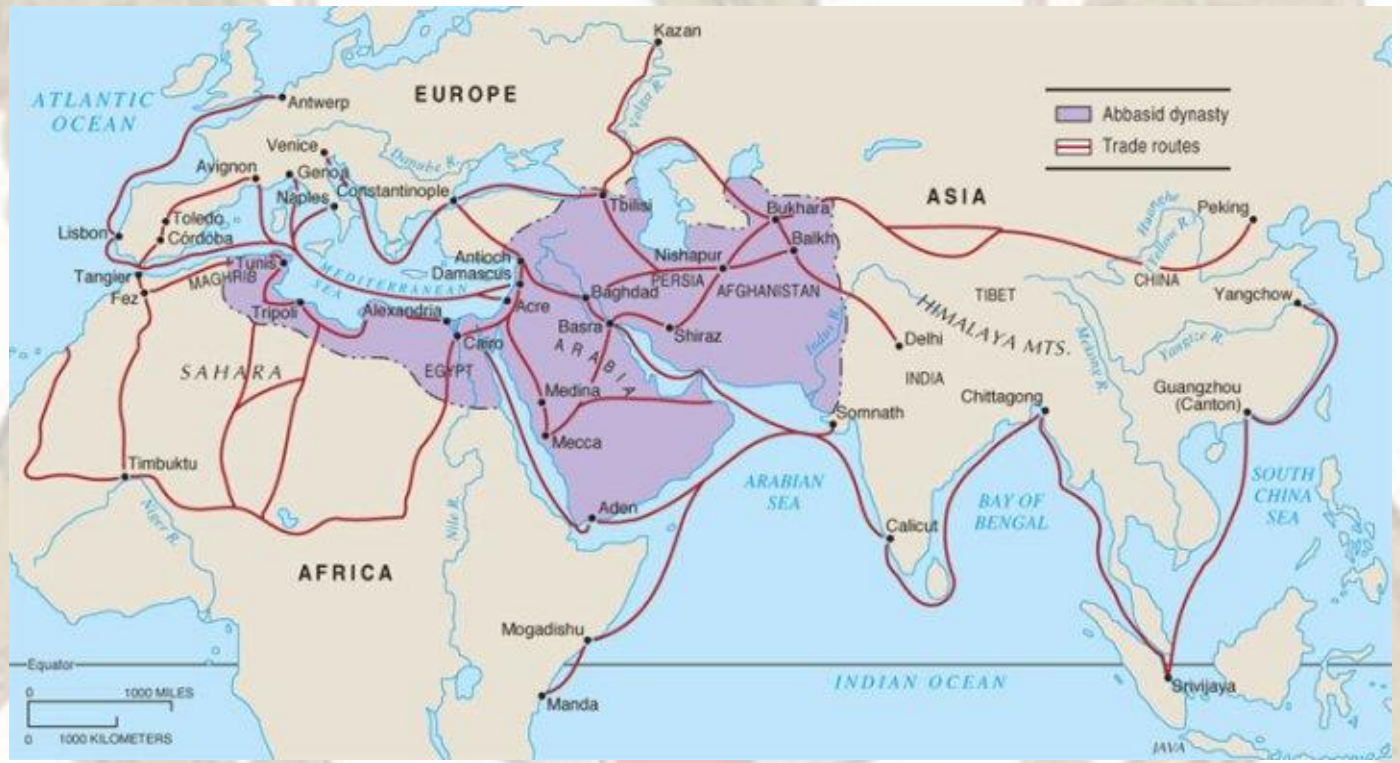


- Arab traders Sailed Directly to India and the Far East before the Christian Era
- Egyptian Port of Alexandria Traded in Spices under the Ptolemy's
- Romans commenced voyages from Egypt to India after 80 B. C. continuing through the 6th Century
- Arab Traders continued through the Middle Ages

Why Were the Brits Here?

EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Why Were the Brits Here?

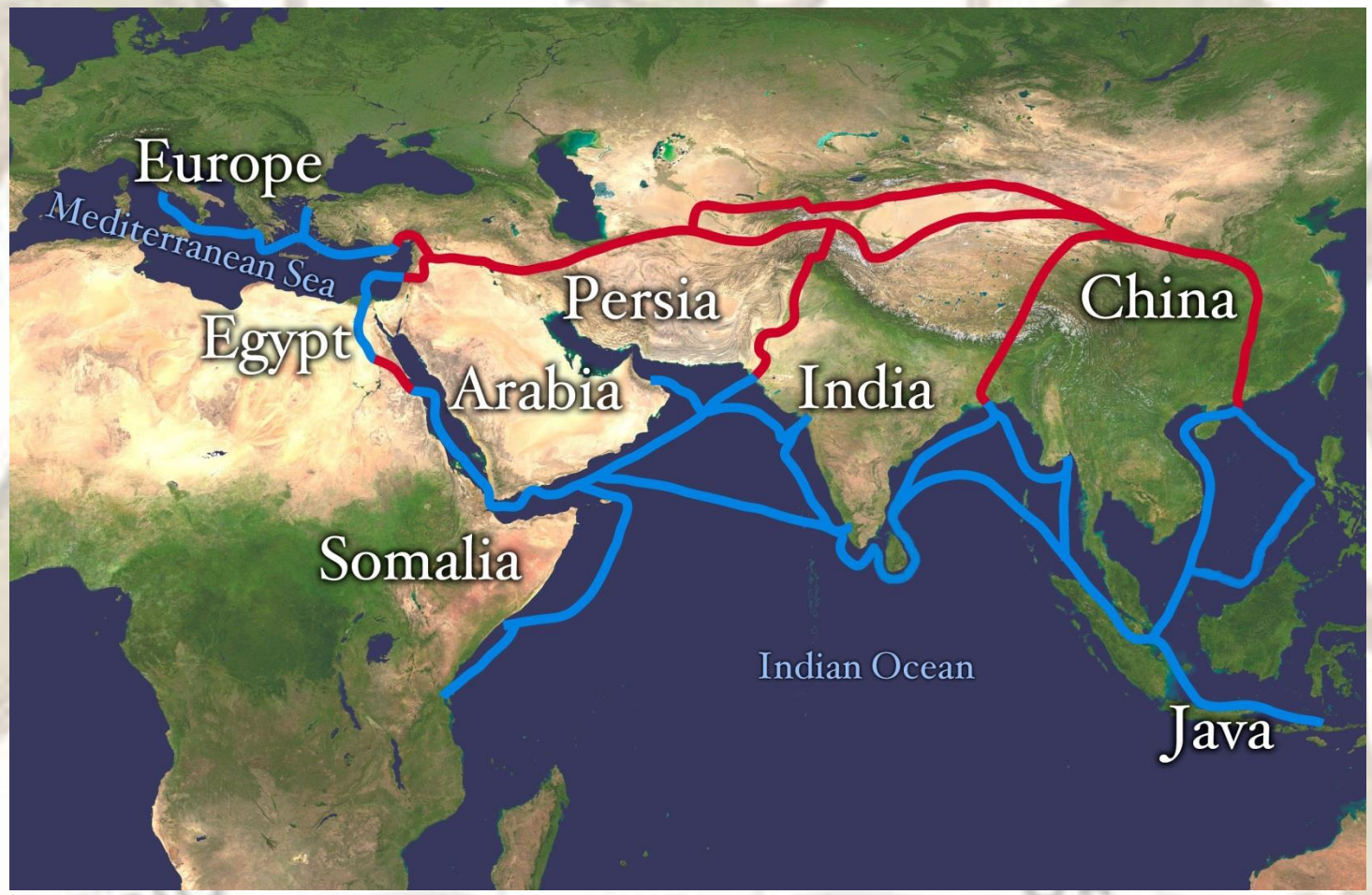


AUSPICIO REGIS ET SENATUS ANGLIÆ.
EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Why Were the Brits Here?

- At the End of the 15th Century explorers began to build ships in search of new ways to reach Spice-Producing Asia
- 1492 Christopher Columbus (Spain) and in 1497 John Cabot (England)
- Pedro Álvares Cabral (Portugal) was the first to bring spices to Europe via Cape of Good Hope in 1501

Why Were the Brits Here?



Why Were the Brits Here?

- Competition Grew within the European Powers
- Dutch East India Company – Strong through Late 18th Century
- English East India Company

Why Were the Brits Here?

- British Investor James Lancaster (Late 16th Century) stopped by Penang Island for Resupply
- Commanded a Fleet of 5 – Including the Red Dragon
- Spices such as Nutmeg sold for up to 60,000 times its Purchase Price
- Lemon Juice & Scurvy

Why Were the Brits Here?

- Commanded a Fleet of 5 – Including the Red Dragon
- 14 Months to Penang
- Privateer – Pillaged other Ships such as Portuguese
- Alliance with Aceh(Sumatra) & Bantam (Java)

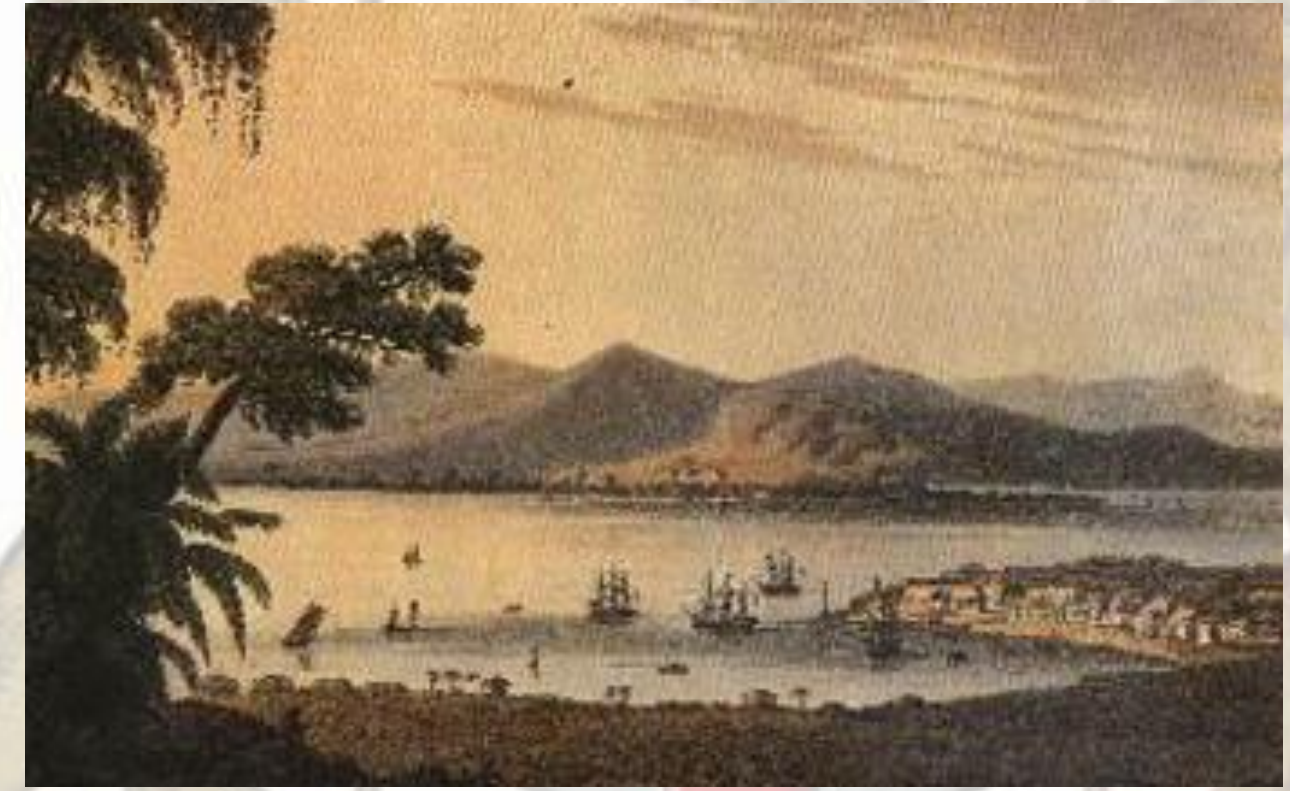
Why Were the Brits Here?

- Dutch Monopoly of Pepper & Portuguese Monopoly on Nutmeg & Cloves
- Fought the Dutch East India Company for 50 Years for Supremacy
- Queen Elizabeth signed English East India Company Charter New Year's Eve 1600
- Reorganized under Charter from Oliver Cromwell

Why Were the Brits Here?

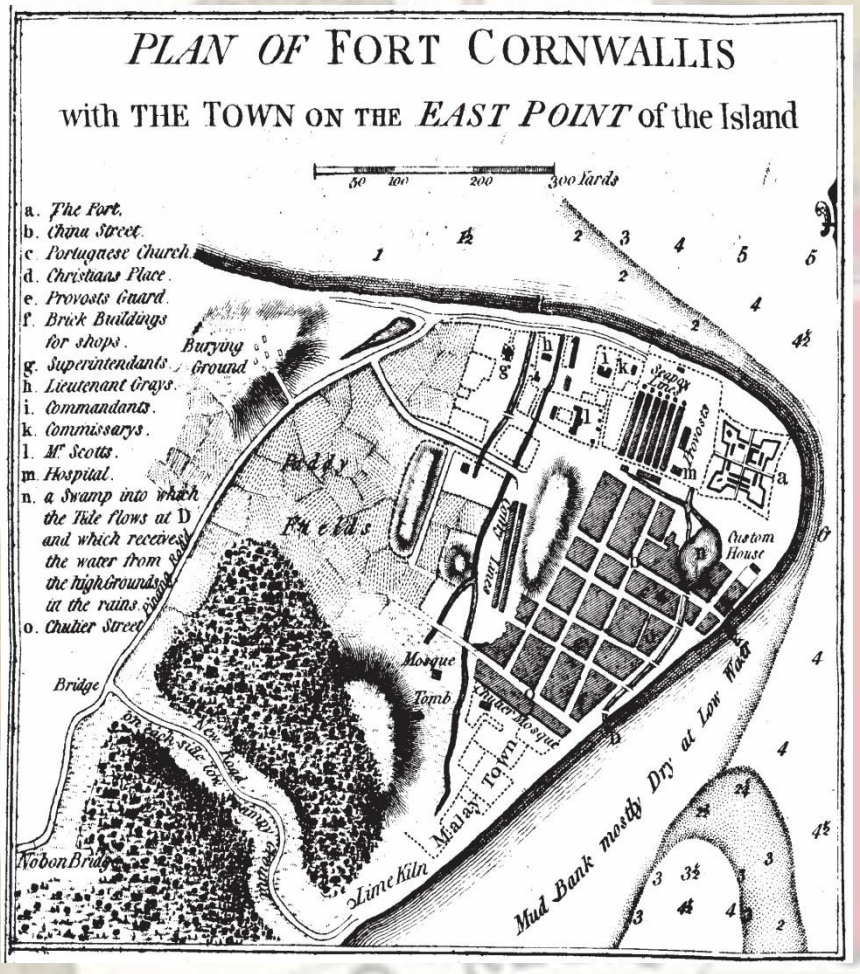
- Francis Light & George IV
- On behalf of British East India Company Leased Penang Is from Sultan Abdullah Mukarram Shah of Kedah
- Superintendent of Georgetown
- Start of British Colonies in SE Asia

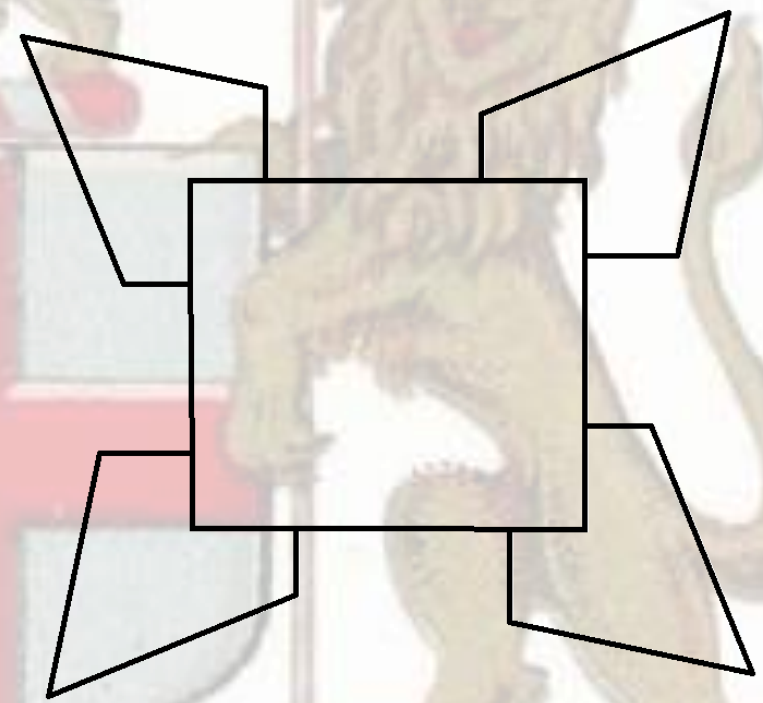
Why Were the Brits Here?



- Penang Harbor provided shelter for Chinese, Indian, Arabian and European ships prior to Light's Arrival
- Fertile Grounds for Pirates including Sir James Lancaster
- Light promised Military Protection to the Sultan without approval from the BEIC
- Settlement built around Fort Cornwallis near the Harbor

Why Were the Brits Here?





- Settlement next to Fort
- Fort Unusual Shape
- Light promised Military Protection to the Sultan without approval from the BEIC
- Settlement built around Fort Cornwallis near the Harbor

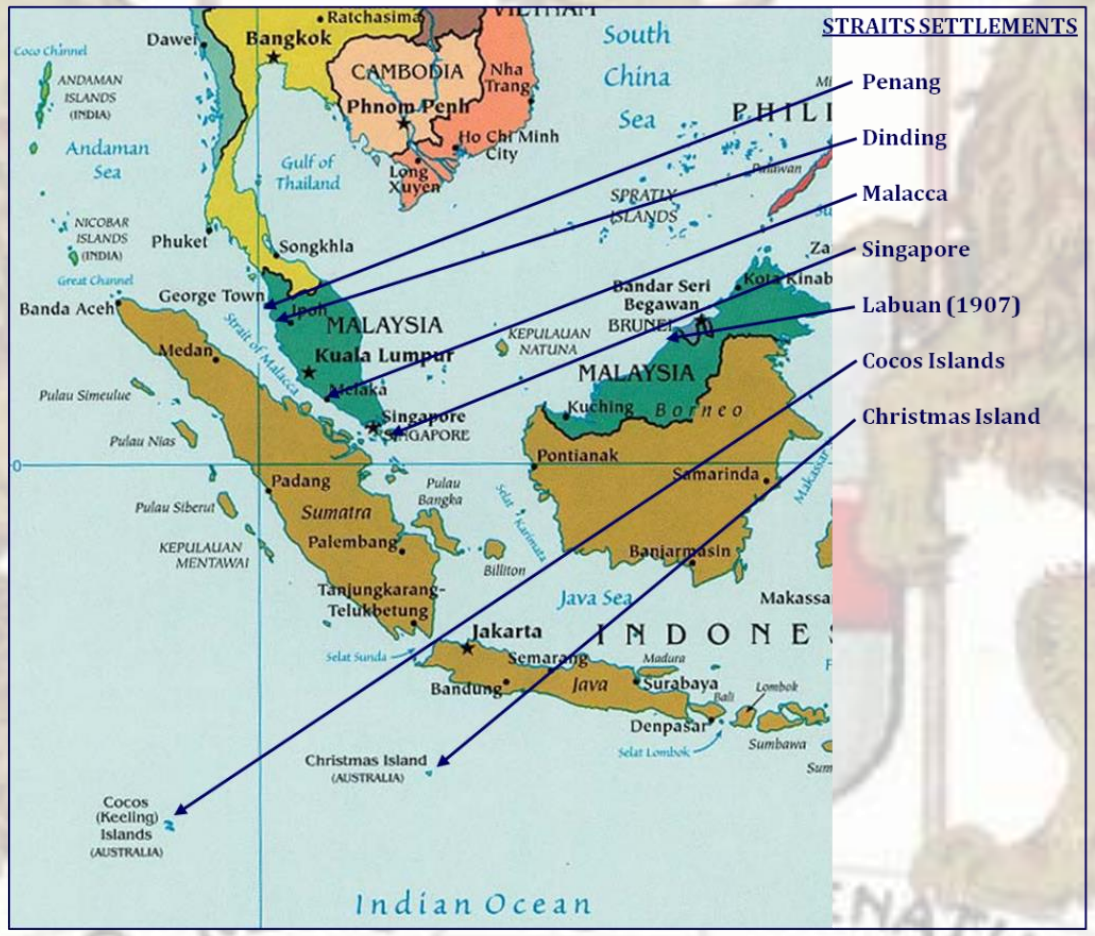
Why Were the Brits Here?

- Renamed Penang Island to Prince of Wales Island
- Loaded the ship's cannons with silver dollars, fired them into the jungle to encourage faster clearing of the thick undergrowth by the laborers
- Light Annexed strip of land adjacent to the Island

Why Were the Brits Here?

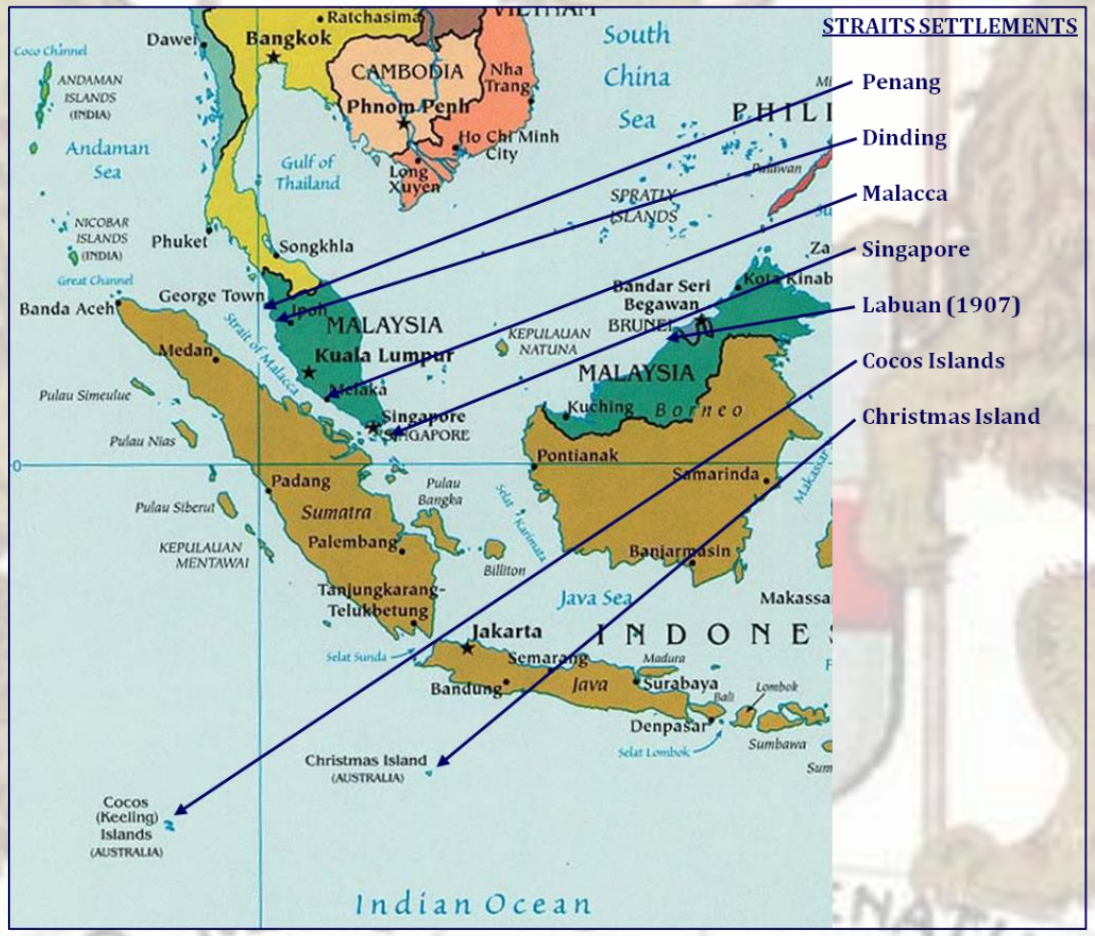
- To encourage Settlers
  - duty-free
  - new arrivals were permitted to declare as much land as they could clear
- Trading post for tea, spices (clove and nutmeg), china, pepper & textiles
- Expanded to Tin & Rubber

Why Were the Brits Here?



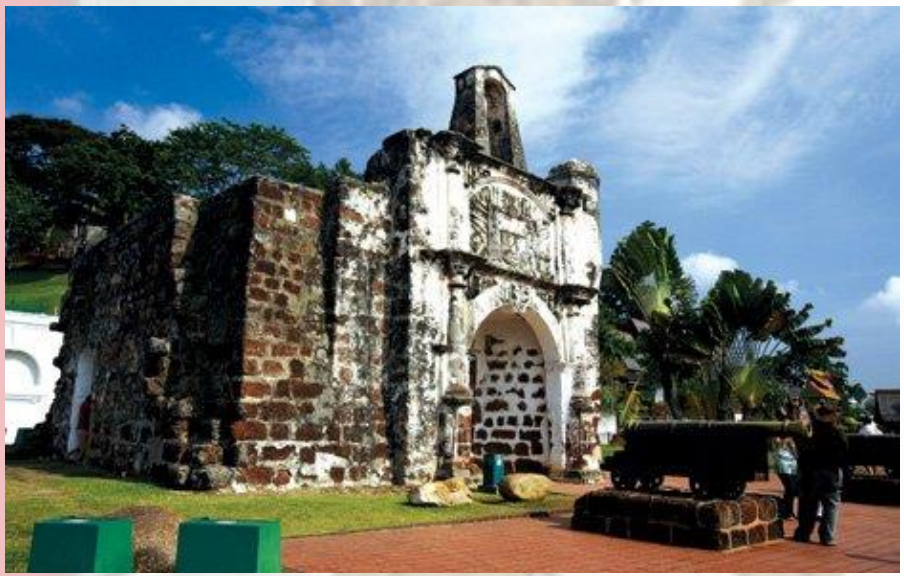
- Malacca added 1795
- Singapore added 1819
- Labuan (on Borneo) added 1907

Why Were the Brits Here?



- Chosen for Naval & Commercial Prospects
- Linked by Sea Lanes in the Chokepoint of the Straits
- Later Transferred to the Crown

Why Were the Brits Here?



Malacca

- Founded by Prince Parameswara of Sumatra (1398)
- ½ Way Between China & India, access to Spice Islands
- Immigrants from China after 1405
- Portuguese Incident (1509-1511)

Why Were the Brits Here?

- Dutch influence Increased – Became Dutch in 1641
- English administered Dutch Colonies during French Troubles (1795) and relocated Dutch residents
- Permanently make British 1824
- Increased British Influence

Why Were the Brits Here?

Singapore

- Early Chinese Settlement (14th Century)
- Arab Spice Traders (18th Century)

Why Were the Brits Here?

Singapore

- Fierce competition among the Portuguese, French, Dutch and British
- Dutch Interference
- Sir Stamford Raffles – Used Trickery to get an Agreement with a Local Ruler

Why Were the Brits Here?

- 1826, Singapore, Malacca and Penang became the British colony of the Straits Settlements
- 1867 Crown Colony
- Major Port of Call for trading ships between Europe and East Asia
- Prospering Commerce attracted thousands of migrants from Europe, China, India and other parts of Asia

Why Were the Brits Here?

- Spice Trade
- Money
- Glory & Power
- Black Pudding & Kidney Pie

Why Were the Brits Here?

Any Questions?

Ada soalan?

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