

The map challenge

Activity 2

Stories from East Africa

Activities for ages 8 - 12

Resources needed:

A4 Photocopies of map of East Africa Protectorate (Page 5)

Atlases

Coloured crayons/felt tip pens

In order to appreciate the stories of the Bombay Africans students will need an understanding of Eastern Africa and its history. This activity focuses students' attention on Kenya which is located in East Africa. This activity involves analysis of the map of the East Africa Protectorate provided on page 5.

- Explain to students that the map dates from 1903 and shows Kenya whilst it was still being mapped by the British. Some key features are missing and countries in the area were not known by the names they are known by today. Discuss the reasons why names and borders of countries can change over time.
- Give out photocopies of the map so students become cartographers (map makers) for a session. Ask them to answer the following questions to deepen their understanding of both Kenya and Eastern Africa. Questions can be written onto an interactive whiteboard and children can use a modern atlas/globe to help them. Answers are provided below:
 - **What was Kenya known as in 1903?**
East Africa Protectorate
 - **What was Tanzania known as in 1903?**
German East Africa
 - **There is a lake called Lake Rudolph in the North of the country. What is this lake called today?**
Lake Turkana
 - **Describe the location of Nairobi on the map.**
Children should describe the location of the capital city in relation to the equator (marked as '0') and should use the points of the compass (North, South, East and West) in their explanations. They can also describe its location along the railway line from Mombasa to Port Florence and its location in relation to other settlements.
 - **What is the distance from Mombasa to Nairobi?** Use the scale to help you work this out.
Answers of between 400 and 480 Kilometres are acceptable here, the answer being 442 Kilometres.
 - **Shade the coastline of Kenya using a blue crayon.**
 - **Shade the port of Mombasa using a brown crayon.**
 - **Find Lake Victoria and label it.**
This is located on the extreme West of the map just below the equator.
 - **Find the railway line from Mombasa to Lake Victoria and shade it in using a green crayon.**
This is marked as 'Railway'.
 - **Mount Elgon (which is a volcano) has been drawn onto the map. Find this volcano and label it.**
This is located on the extreme West of the map just above the equator and North of Port Florence.
 - **Produce a key for your map.**
*The key should contain symbols to help people find the:
Capital city, port, railway, lakes, mountain ranges and coastline on your map.*

Students should be encouraged to look at modern atlases and the use of symbols and colour within them. They should begin to understand that a key enables a map to be read more easily and highlights important human and geographical features such as the capital city, main port, railway lines, rivers, lakes, mountains and coastline. An example of a key is provided below, students can use the symbols shown in the example or develop their own symbols. Map keys should be extended for any additional features added to students maps. The A3 archive map of Africa (page 27) can be compared to a modern map of Africa to demonstrate the increase in knowledge of the geography of the continent.

Kenya map key:



Capital



Port



Lake

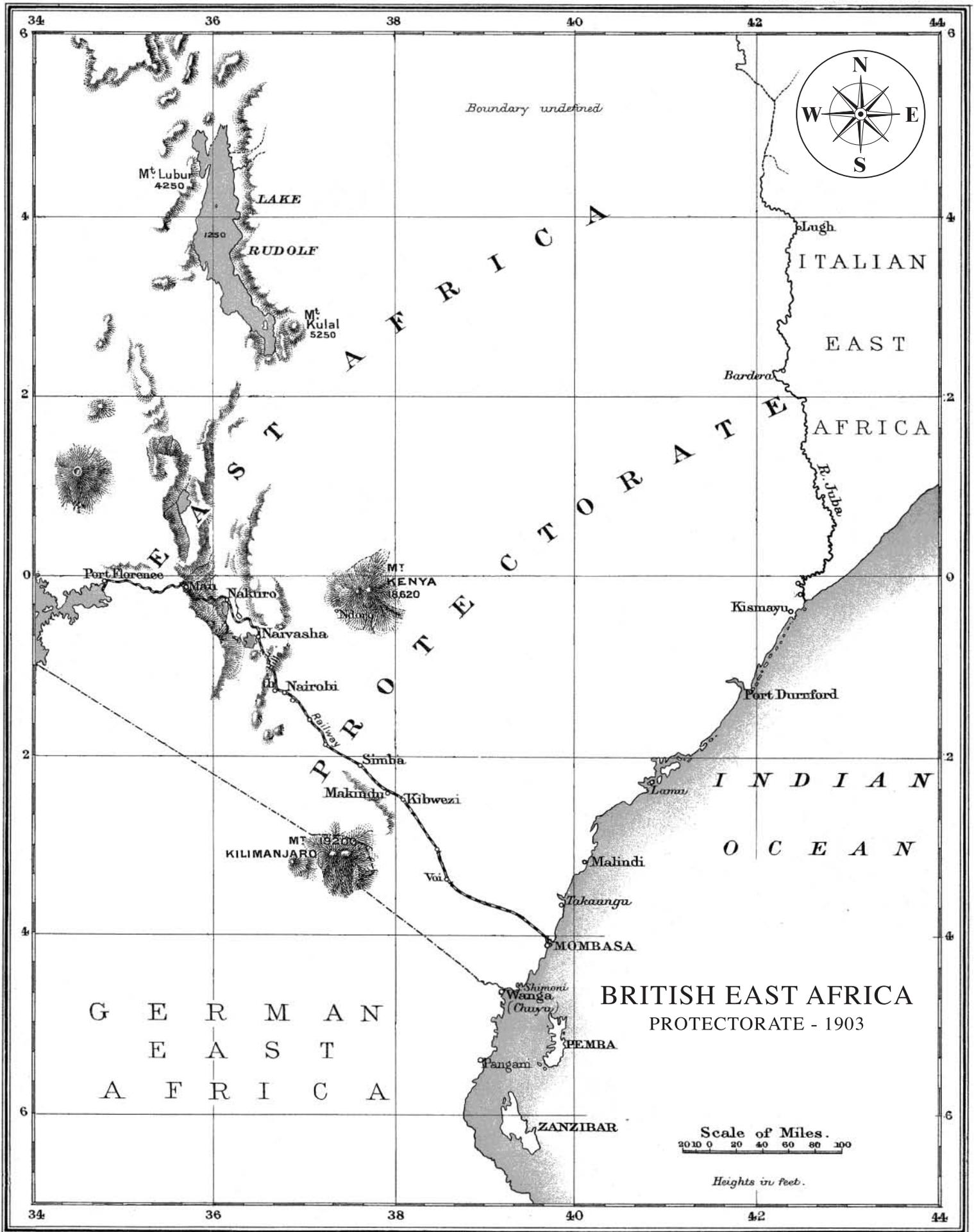


Ocean



Railway

Map of East Africa Protectorate - 1903 by R B Buckley



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