

Events/Apologies? Cards.

Instructions: Print enough sets on paper or card so that there is little or no repetition of cards when distributed to the small groups during the lesson. Cut into separate cards and put into sets of three, ensuring there are enough sets of three for each small group in the class.

1. Amritsar Massacre (1919)

British soldiers shot and killed hundreds of unarmed people in India during a peaceful protest. The attack shocked the world, and many saw it as an act of cruelty. Britain has expressed regret but has never officially apologised. Some people think an apology would help acknowledge the injustice. The massacre led to stronger calls for India's independence. Today, it is remembered as one of the worst colonial atrocities. The protesters had gathered at **Jallianwala Bagh**, a public garden, to peacefully oppose British rule. The British officer, **General Dyer**, ordered soldiers to block the exits and fire at the crowd without warning. Over **1,000 people** were wounded or killed in less than **10 minutes**, making it one of the bloodiest events in India's history.

- **Reason:** Some UK officials argue that past governments, not the current one, were responsible.
 - **Reason:** Others claim an apology could lead to demands for financial compensation.
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2. Kenyan Mau Mau Uprising (1950s)

The Mau Mau rebellion was a fight against British rule in Kenya. The British army tortured and killed many people to stop the uprising. For years, the UK denied what happened, but later admitted some abuses. However, it has never given a full apology. Some survivors and historians still call for one. The events led to Kenya gaining independence in 1963. British forces set up **detention camps**, where Mau Mau fighters were starved, beaten, and tortured. Thousands of Kenyan villagers were forced into "**protected villages**", which were more like prison camps. Many innocent people were caught in the violence, as the British tried to crush the uprising.

- **Reason:** The UK government has argued that colonial-era events are too distant to warrant an apology.
 - **Reason:** Some officials fear an apology could lead to legal claims for reparations.
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3. Irish Famine (1845-1852)

Millions of people in Ireland died or had to leave their country because of a terrible famine. The British government-controlled Ireland at the time but did very little to help. Some historians believe Britain could have saved many lives. Even today, people argue over whether Britain should apologise. The famine caused lasting pain for Irish people. It is remembered as a tragedy that changed Ireland forever. The famine was caused by **potato blight**, which ruined Ireland's main food crop. While millions of Irish people starved, Britain continued exporting food from Ireland to England. The famine led to **mass emigration**, with many Irish families leaving for the US and Canada.

- **Reason:** Some argue that the famine was caused by natural events, not British policies.
 - **Reason:** Others claim an apology could reopen historical tensions between Britain and Ireland.
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4. Transatlantic Slave Trade

The UK transported enslaved Africans to the Americas for centuries. The UK has refused to issue a formal apology. Even though slavery ended, its effects still hurt Black communities today. Many leaders have asked the UK to apologise, but it has refused. Some think an apology would help recognise this injustice. The slave trade is one of history's worst crimes. British ships carried **millions of enslaved Africans** across the Atlantic in brutal conditions. Many people died on the journey or were sold into terrible labour conditions. Some British cities, like **Liverpool and Bristol**, became wealthy because of the trade.

- **Reason:** Some argue that slavery was legal at the time and should not be judged by modern standards.
 - **Reason:** Others fear an apology could lead to demands for financial reparations.
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5. Windrush Scandal

In the mid-1900s, people from the Caribbean moved to the UK to help rebuild after World War II. Years later, some were wrongly detained or deported because of unfair immigration laws. The UK has admitted mistakes but hasn't fully apologised. Many affected people are still waiting for compensation. The scandal showed racism in British policies. Some believe the government should do more to fix the damage. Many Windrush migrants lived in the UK for decades but were suddenly **denied healthcare, jobs, or even citizenship**. Some were deported despite legally living in the UK. The scandal caused **public outrage and protests**.

- **Reason:** Some argue that the scandal was caused by bureaucratic errors, not deliberate racism.
 - **Reason:** Others fear an apology could lead to more compensation claims.
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6. Iraq War (2003)

The US and UK invaded Iraq, claiming Iraq had dangerous weapons. No weapons were found, and many believe the war was unjustified. Millions of Iraqis suffered, and thousands of soldiers died. Some people think the governments should apologise for starting the war. Iraq is still recovering from the war's effects. The invasion changed global politics. The war led to **massive destruction in Baghdad and other cities**. Many Iraqis were displaced or killed due to bombings and battles. Some governments argued that the war was about **oil and power** rather than weapons.

- **Reason:** Some argue that the war was necessary to remove a dangerous dictator.
 - **Reason:** Others fear an apology could damage relations with military supporters.
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