Drought and Famine

“I hate Indians. They are a beastly people with a beastly religion. The famine was their own fault for breeding like rabbits.” –Winston Churchill

**Directions:** Watch the Crash Course World History video on Drought and Famine (found on MrCaseyHistory.com and PupilPath) and answer the questions below in full and complete sentences. For those who find it helpful, a written transcript will also be provided in a link below the video.

1. Generally speaking, are famines natural or man-made disasters? Explain.

2. Why are famines more likely to occur in the Global South?

3. What was the condition of the Indian economy before British rule in regards to wages and food prices?

4. How did the economy change under British rule? Why did this lead to famine?

5. Did British railroads in India Improve or worsen famine conditions?

6. How did British officials justify their inaction in terms of providing relief to famine-stricken Indian populations?
7. What was the purpose of British work camps? Did they solve the problem? Explain.

8. Do you think that the British would take the same actions or offer the same explanations if they were dealing with their own people? Why or why not?

9. Consider the following quotes from Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister during WWII. During the war, he diverted the supplies of medical aid and food that was being dispatched to the starving victims to the already well supplied soldiers of Europe. When questioned about this action, he said, “Famine or no famine, Indians will breed like rabbits.” The Delhi Government sent a telegram painting to him a picture of the horrible devastation and the number of people who had died. His only response was, “Then why hasn't Gandhi died yet?”

   How do his comments connect to what you learned from the video? Are you surprised to hear these things coming from him? Why or why not?

10. A picture is worth a thousand words. What words come to mind when you see this picture?