



## A Brief History of Ugandan Asians

In 1857, India became part of the British Empire and the country soon became used to working and trading in a way that the British government and British companies did business. When Uganda became part of the British Empire in 1894, rather than train a whole new nation in how it preferred to work, it moved thousands of Indians to Africa to help them build railways, create new businesses and make the country profitable for them. As a result of this preferential treatment by the British government, the Indian (sometimes called Asian) population of Uganda became wealthy.

In 1962, Uganda decided that it no longer wanted to be ruled by Britain and became an independent country. The country's first President, Milton Obote introduces changes to make it more difficult for the Indian (Ugandan Asian) population to run their businesses. Despite these and other anti-Asian policies, Idi Amin, a General in the Ugandan army didn't think Obote was being strict enough and so in January 1971 he uses the army to take control of the country, becoming the new President of Uganda. He begins creating even tighter restrictions for Ugandan Asians.

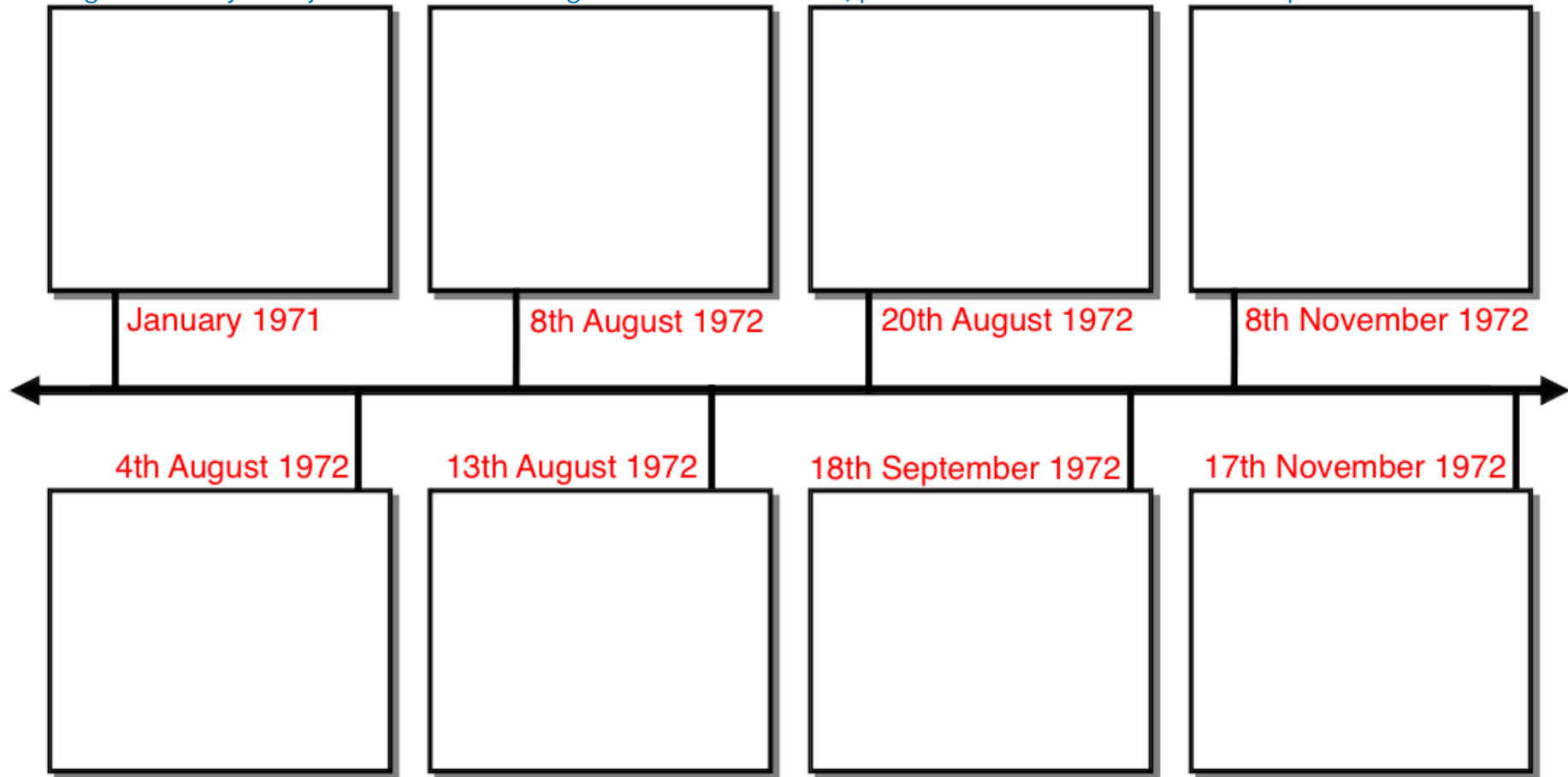
On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1972, President Amin announces that Uganda has "no place for Asians" and says that all Indians in the country (about 60,000 people) must be gone within 90 days (3 months) or it would be like "they are sitting on the fire". As Uganda had once been a British colony, many of the Ugandan Asians had British Passports. On the 8<sup>th</sup> August, India banned Ugandan Asians with British Passports from entering the country. On the 13<sup>th</sup> August, the British government accepts responsibility for UK passport holders (about 27,000 people), but not for any other Ugandan Asians. On the 20<sup>th</sup> August, the United Nations announces that any Ugandan Asians without passports will be classed as stateless and qualify for refugee status.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September the first flight of Ugandan Asian refugees lands at Stansted airport. Over the coming weeks, most Ugandan Asian refugees would be kept in Resettlement Camps and cared for by volunteers. When the 90-day deadline is reached on the 8<sup>th</sup> November, there are believed to be less than 1,000 Ugandan Asians left in the country. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Ugandan Resettlement Board announces that a total of 27,200 Ugandan Asians had arrived in the UK.



### Expulsion Timeline

Thinking of the film you've just watched and using the information above, put the events below in their correct place on the timeline.



First flight carrying Ugandan Asian refugees lands at Stansted Airport	Ugandan Resettlement Board announces 27,200 Ugandan Asians now in the UK	After the 90 day deadline there are less than 1,000 Asians left in Uganda	Idi Amin announces expulsion of all Asians from Uganda within 90 days
India declares no Ugandan Asians with British passports can enter the country	The Ugandan army overthrows the government and General Idi Amin becomes the President	British government accepts responsibility for UK passport holders only	United Nations announces that Ugandan Asians without passports will be stateless refugees