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The Middle East generally lacks proficient English speakers. 19) Scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language TOEFL scores R-Chan The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required for foreign students from non-English-speaking countries to enroll at American universities, among other things. Here's where students tend to perform well. (English-speaking countries are included on the map, but the test is only required for people for whom English is not a first language.) The Netherlands gets the top score: an average of 100 points out of a possible 120. 20) Immigrants to the US are learning English more quickly than previous generations immigrants learning English Claude S. Fischer, Mike Hout, Aliya Saperstein Concerns about whether immigrants are assimilating in the US often focus on criticisms that they're not learning English quickly enough (think of outrage over phone systems that ask you to select English or Spanish). But in fact immigrants to the US today are learning and using English much more quickly than immigrants at the turn of the 20th century. More than 75 percent of all immigrants, and just less than 75 percent of Spanish-speaking immigrants, speak English within the first five years, compared to less than 50 percent of immigrants between 1900 and 1920. Dialects and regionalisms 21) Where Cockneys come from Cockney map MutleyBG The traditional definition of a Cockney in London is someone born within earshot of the bells of St.-Mary-le-Bow church -- the area highlighted in tan on this map. (The smaller circles within it are where the bells can be heard more loudly in the noisier modern world.) The distinctive Cockney accent or dialect is best known for its rhyming slang, which dates back to at least the 19th century. The slang starts as rhymes, but often the rhyming word is dropped -- "to have a butcher's," meaning "to take a look," came from the rhyming of "butcher's hook" with "look." Learn more 40 maps that explain World War One An awesome map of the last time each European country was occupied 40 maps that explain the Middle East Credits Writer Libby Nelson Editors Sarah Kliff, Max Fisher Developer Yuri Victor Copy Editor Ann Espuelas TOP ARTICLES 1/5 8 ways to go out and stay safe during the coronavirus pandemic RECODE Facebook nears a tipping point when it comes to moderating hate speech RECODE Facebook's war against one of the internet's worst conspiracy sites RECODE How to make sure Google automatically deletes your data on a regular basis View all stories in Technology Sponsored Content This App Can Get You Speaking Spanish This Summer This App Can Get You Speaking Spanish This Summer Babbel Cyber Security Courses in Amman May Be Better Than You Think Cyber Security Courses in Amman May Be Better Than You Think Cyber Security Courses IToday's American English is actually closer to 18th-century British English in pronunciation than current-day British English is. Sometime in the 19th century, British pronunciation changed significantly, particularly whether "r"s are pronounced after vowels. 8) Early exploration of Australia Australia Lencer Many of the first Europeans to settle in Australia, beginning in the late 1700s, were convicts from the British Isles, and the Australian English accent probably started with their children in and around Sydney. Australia, unlike the US, doesn't have a lot of regional accents. But it does have many vocabulary words borrowed from Aboriginal languages: kangaroo, boomerang, and wombat among them. 9) Canada Canada English map Metro News British Loyalists flooded into Canada during the American Revolution. As a result, Canadian English sounds a lot like American English, but it's maintained many of the "ou" words from its British parent (honour, colour, valour). The phrase "I don't give a damn" was once speculated to refer to an Indian coin. This

probably isn't true -- the Oxford English Dictionary disagrees -- but it shows that language exchange during the colonial era was a two-way street. 11) Tristan da Cunha Tristan da Cunha varp Tristan da Cunha is the most remote archipelago in the world: it's in the South Atlantic Ocean, more or less halfway between Uruguay and South Africa. It's also the furthest-flung location of native English speakers. Tristan da Cunha is part of a British overseas territory, and its nearly 300 residents speak only English. Tristan da Cunha English has a few unusual features: double negatives are common, as is the use of "done" in the past tense ("He done walked up the road.") English around the world 12) Countries with English as the official language English as official language Shadz Fifty-eight countries have English as an official language. Canada is undergoing a vowel shift of its own, where "milk" is pronounced like "melk" by some speakers. But unlike British and American English, which has a variety of regional accents, Canadian English is fairly homogenous. 10) English in India Maps of India The British East India Company brought English to the Indian subcontinent in the 17th century, and the period of British colonialism established English as the governing language. It still is, in part due to India's incredible linguistic diversity. But languages from the subcontinent contributed to English, too. The words "shampoo," "pajamas," "bungalow," "bangle," and "cash" all come from Indian languages. 4) The Danelaw .Danelaw Hel-hama The next source of English was Old Norse