Land reclamation in Singapore started in the 19th century. Initially, soil excavated from inland hills and sand dredged from surrounding seabeds were used to reclaim the sea. Singapore gorged its hills and ridges to reclaim land. Fill material was evacuated from Bedok, Siglap, Tampines and Jurong. Most hills were flattened during the Telok Ayer Reclamation from 1879 to 1887, and the East Coast Reclamation of 1418 hectares from 1961 to 1985. By the mid-1980s, the hill-cut soil and local-dredged sand suitable for reclamation became almost exhausted and reclamation contractors started to import sand from neighboring countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia.
Tanjong Pagar
General view of Bukit Besok, Temporary staging looking south, before 1945
Photographer unknown
TLA archive
Singapore Empire Dock

General view of Bukit Tampines, View of bottom showing west wall, before 1945

Photographer unknown

TLA archive
Bukit Timah
*General view of Rifle Range Hill*
Photographer unknown
TLA archive
Unnamed Hill
Possibly Tampines
Photographer unknown
TLA archive
Unnamed Hill
Possibly Tampines
Photographer unknown
TLA archive