

# Year 8 History

## Knowledge Organiser

### Empire and Slavery

### Term 1

Name:

Class:



Enquiry Question:  
To what extent should Britain celebrate her Empire?

Big Questions:

- 1) **What was the British Empire, and why did Britain have one?** An empire is a collection of tribes, regions, territories, states, or even countries that are ruled over and controlled by one leader or 'mother' country. The places controlled by the mother country are usually called colonies. There are lots of different reasons why countries want empires, including trade, religion, education, exploration, military and powers.
- 2) **What was India like before the British arrived and how did Britain gain India?** There were religious differences in India before the British arrived, and the British took advantage of this situation. The British took advantage of existing tensions between the Indians themselves and manipulated the Indians.
- 3) **Why did the Indians rebel in 1857?** The Indians rebelled in 1857 because of poor conditions in the army when they were fighting for the British. The new Enfield rifle cartridges were rumoured to contain pig and pork fat, both of which are against the religious beliefs of Muslims and Hindus.
- 4) **What was the impact of the empire on Britain and India?** There were many positives that British rule brought to India, including improving communications across India; law and order; education and introducing a legal system. However, there were also many negatives that British rule brought to India including not treating Indian citizens as equals to the British; exploiting Indian resources and maximising profits for themselves.
- 5) **Why was there a scramble for Africa?** From 1870 to 1900 90% of Africa was taken by Europeans because they found gold, silver and diamonds there, and there was competition amongst the European powers to create as big an empire as possible.
- 6) **How did the empire help to win two world wars?** During both World War One and World War Two many British Empire countries contributed to the war effort. This was done through soldiers fighting for the British, labourers, resources and equipment. Without these countries Britain may not have won or survived the wars. Many soldiers from the empire won awards for bravery and their contribution to the war effort.
- 7) **Should we celebrate our empire?** There are historical debates about whether or not the British should celebrate their empire. On the one hand some historians argue that the empire exploited other peoples which should not be celebrated, whereas other historians feel that the empire helped develop many of their colonies.

- 8) What part has Britain played in slavery?** Britain between 1650 and 1804 transported approximately 3.1 million slaves from West Africa to the Americas. Britain used London, Bristol and Liverpool as ports for the slave trade and made a fortune out of slavery.
- 9) How did the transatlantic triangular trade work?** There were three stages to the transatlantic triangular trade. The first stage was the outward journey from England to West Africa where goods were traded for slaves. The middle passage was where slaves were taken to the West Indies and the Americas, and was called the middle passage. Slaves were then auctioned off and sold once there. The return journey was from the West Indies or the Americas to Britain carrying tobacco, sugar cane and cotton.
- 10) What was life like on the plantations and how were slaves sold?** There were two main types of auction – grab and go and bidding auctions. The price of slaves could depend on numerous factors including the gender of slaves, the age of a slave and the physical strength of a slave. Once brought, slaves would work on the plantations. They would grow crops such as coffee, sugar, tobacco and cotton. By 1860, there were 4 million slaves working in the USA, 60% of them on cotton plantations.
- 11) How effective were slave rebellions and resistance?** Not all slaves followed the instructions of their owner. Everyday resistance included them breaking their tools, ignoring instructions, learning to read and write, stealing food or valuables or pretending to be ill. There were several large-scale rebellions including the Haitian Revolution from 1791 to 1804.

## Glossary

<b>Abolition</b>	Doing away with something; for example getting rid of slavery.
<b>British Commonwealth</b>	An organisation of nations consisting of Britain and some of its former colonies; now independent, free countries but retaining close links to Britain.
<b>Colony/colonies</b>	Areas or countries controlled by another country; for example, Britain controlled a huge number of colonies, which made up its Empire.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Another word for colonies.
<b>Dominant</b>	Having influence and control.
<b>East India Company</b>	An English company formed in 1600 to trade with India.
<b>Empires</b>	Collections of different areas or countries controlled by one 'mother' country; Britain had the largest empire in the world by 1900.
<b>Imperial System</b>	A system of measuring and weighing, used for centuries in Britain and still used in many former Empire countries (pounds, inches and pints).
<b>Legacy</b>	What someone or something is remembered for or what they leave behind that is remembered.
<b>Maroons</b>	Runaway slaves who lived in the West Indies, mainly in Jamaica.
<b>Maxim gun</b>	A machine gun.
<b>Missionaries</b>	Religious people sent to convert natives of another country to a religion, for example, Christianity.
<b>Mutiny</b>	Open rebellion against authority.
<b>Partition</b>	Dividing something into parts.
<b>Plantations</b>	Large farms on which crops are grown.
<b>Revolution</b>	The overthrow of a government by the people who are ruled.
<b>Self-government</b>	Government of a country or area by its own people.
<b>Sepoys</b>	A native Indian soldier.
<b>Slave triangle</b>	The trading of slaves between Africa, the Americas, and Europe.
<b>Trading stations</b>	Large warehouses at ports where goods were stored and where trading took place.
<b>Victoria Cross</b>	The highest British Commonwealth military honour that a soldier can win.

## Timeline of key dates and people.

1497	Portuguese explorer called Vasco de Gama discovered how to get to India by sea.
1600	Britain sets up East India Company.
1757	Battle of Plassey.
1773	Government of India Act.
1791-1804	Haitian rebellion.
1831	Nat Turner's rebellion.
1833	Slavery Abolition Act.
10 <sup>th</sup> May 1857	Indian Mutiny starts.
July 1857	Battle of Cawnpore.
8 <sup>th</sup> July 1858	Peace declared in India.
1880-1900	Scramble for Africa.
1914	WW1 starts.
1918	WW1 finishes.
1981	Last country to abolish slavery - Mauritania
Robert Clive	Commander-in-Chief of the East India Company's army.
Warren Hastings	First governor general of India.
Walter Tull	Britain's first black army officer.
John Hawkins	First English slave trader.
Nat Turner	Led a slave rebellion.
Olaudah Equiano	A slave that exposed conditions in his book.

## Key events.

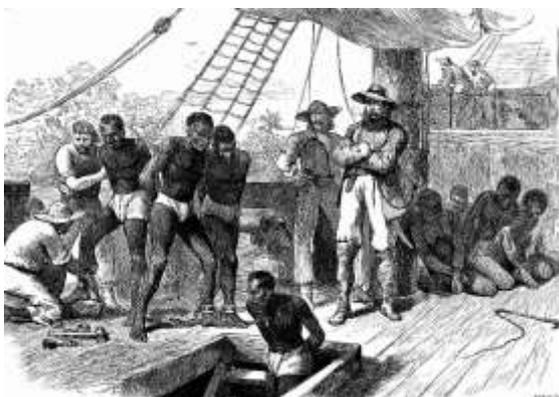
### A map of the British Empire.



The British Empire was the largest empire in history. For over a century, it was the world's foremost power. The British Empire was first established as early as 1497, however, it **reached its peak in the years between 1815 and 1914.**

The process through which the British (and other nations at the time) began to spread power beyond its borders is called **imperialism**. The British Empire was spread as far as New Zealand in the east and Canada in the west. It has hugely influenced societies, cultures, industries and the way that people live across the world.

### Major events of the British Empire.



empire in 1807.

*Transatlantic slave trade* – One of the most horrific parts of the British Empire was the involvement in the **transatlantic slave trade**. For 300 years from around the 15<sup>th</sup> century, British slave traders are estimated to have brought or sold around **3 million slaves**. Slavery made Britain very wealthy. Britain **banned slavery from its**

**The British Empire 1703-1914** - Britain began to look towards other areas of the world, for example Asia and Australia, to fulfil its **imperial ambitions**. Areas of India, the Caribbean and New Zealand were added to the Empire, which grew massively. Britain at the time were proud of the Empire and its power, however, those living in colonies experienced **inequality and loss of culture and religion**.



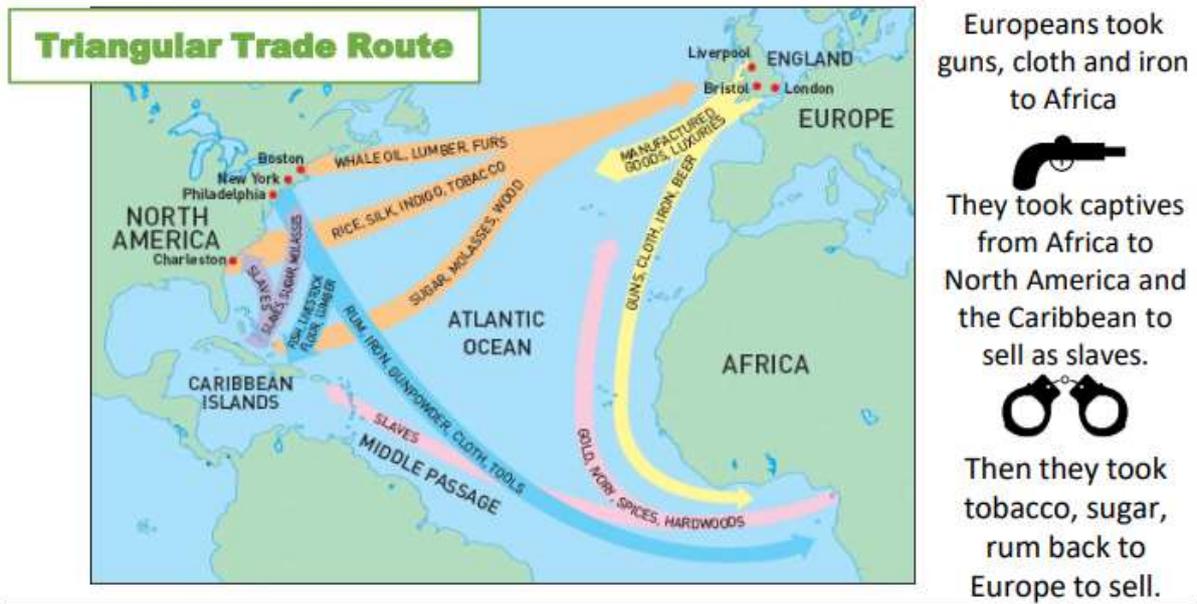
**The end of the British Empire** – Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a number of states became ‘**dominions**’ meaning that they remained part of the empire, but governed themselves. During the First and Second World War, Britain relied heavily upon its empire in

order to win. The countries who supported Britain began to take an increasingly independent view. Furthermore, the wars left Britain weakened and less interested than it had previously been. By the late 1970s, the empire became reduced to a few pockets of territory around the world.

**What countries were part of the British Empire?**

<b>Countries and territories within the British Empire.</b>		
North America		North America was the location of the first British colonies. It was known as the ‘New World.’ From <b>1775</b> , thirteen colonies in North America combined and fought to be free in the <b>War of Independence</b> . Their success led to the creation of the <b>USA</b> .
Caribbean		Over the course of the 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries, Britain gained major colonies on the islands of the Caribbean Sea. The climate was perfect for <b>growing sugar and tobacco</b> , so plantations were set up. Britain became very rich from this.

Africa		<p>From 1901 to 1902, Britain competed with other European empire-builders in what became known as the ‘<b>Scramble for Africa.</b>’ By the early 1900s, huge parts of Africa, including <b>Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria,</b> were under British rule.</p>
Asia		<p>After losing huge parts of its colony in the American War of Independence. Britain turned its attention to parts of <b>Asia</b> in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, e.g. colonies were formed in the <b>Middle East, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Singapore.</b></p>
India		<p>Areas of India were under British rule for hundreds of years. From the 1600s until the 1850s these areas were run by the <b>English East India Company.</b> After 1850 until 1947 they became the British Raj. In 1876, Queen Victoria became ‘<b>Empress of India.</b>’</p>
Australia/New Zealand		<p>Australia was a set of British colonies between 1780 and 1901. The first colonies were established as places where <b>criminals were sent to live.</b> Later, free settlers created colonies. From 1804 until 1907, <b>New Zealand</b> was part of the British Empire.</p>



The slave trade was huge. British ships transported around **3 million enslaved people**. It has been estimated overall, about 12 million Africans were enslaved and taken to the Americas. The death rate of the enslaved people was horrific. Unknown millions died in Africa before they even made it to the ships. It has been estimated that **at least 2 million enslaved Africans died** on the Middle Passage across the Atlantic.

Journeys lasted from six weeks to several months, depending on the weather. The ships were often too small to carry the hundreds of enslaved Africans on board. Those enslaved were tightly packed into **cramped spaces below deck** with one person's right leg chained to the left leg of another person. Conditions on the ships were terrible, and many of those enslaved died from diseases like **scurvy and measles**.

Plantation owners in America had complete freedom to buy and sell slaves. State laws gave slave marriages no legal protection and so husbands could be separated from their wives and children from their mothers. In the West Indies, the **enslaved people were sold at an auction** called a 'scramble.' Working conditions on plantations were horrific. To maximise profits with crops such as sugar, shift work was developed and brutal violence was used to keep the captives under control.

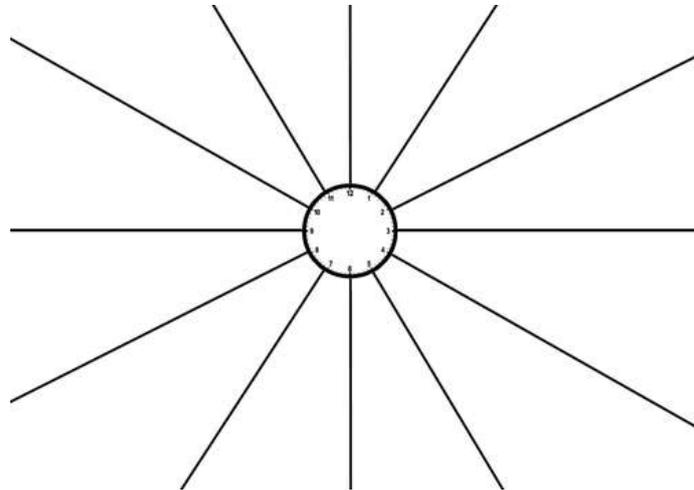


## How do I revise for end of topic assessments?

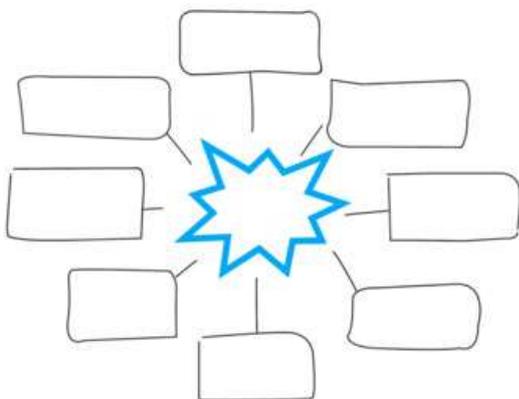


**Flashcards** – Use flashcards to practice key dates, terms and people. You could write a key date on one side, and turn it over and put the event. Alternatively, you could do match-ups, where a key person is written/drawn and then on another card what they have done is written down. You could then match-up the cards. Flashcards are also great for writing out knowledge questions on one side, and writing the answer on the other side.

### Revision clocks -



Take an A3/A4 bit of paper and divide it into 12 sections. In each section write a big question and write 3 or 4 bullet points of the key knowledge for that question in the clock. Make your clocks colourful and highlight key words/dates/people.



**Mind-maps** – Write a topic in the middle and have 5-6 branches coming off around it with the key ideas. For example, you could have a mind-map on the Battle of Hastings, and your branches could include the key events, information about the different fighting techniques and the reasons why William won.

**Brain dump** - get a blank piece of paper, and write down everything you know about the topic being studied. Give yourself 4-5 minutes to do this. When the time is up, in a different coloured pen, use your workbook and knowledge organiser to fill in any missing details.

## Term 1 – Homework 1.

*Task – Read the text below, and answer the questions on p.12.*

By the 1850s, most of India was ruled by the EIC (East India Company). Many of the British people who worked for the EIC lived in great luxury in India and made huge fortunes. To help 'protect' them in India – and to make sure things ran smoothly – British soldiers were stationed there. The army also recruited local Indians as soldiers. However, on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1857, Indian soldiers, called Sepoys, working for the British in Meerut, northern India, shot dead a number of British soldiers who worked alongside them. Soon, the whole of northern India was engulfed in a fierce fight between the British and the Sepoys, lasting over a year, until June 1858. This was the Indian Rebellion or the War of Independence.

The massacre of 200 British women and children at Cawnpore (July 1857) outraged the British. Back home in Britain, crowds cried for blood. Even Queen Victoria was horrified. Soon, 70,000 fresh troops were sent to India armed with the latest Colt revolvers made in America. Revenge was violent, bloody and swift. When some Muslim mutineers were captured, they were sewn into pig skins before they were hanged. One British soldier wrote of a giant tree with 130 Sepoys hanging from its branches. An equally horrible punishment was to strap the rebels across a barrel of a gun, which was fired.

Peace was finally declared on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1858, but the rebellion had shocked the British. Before the rebellion, the British policy in India had been to introduce British ideas about religion and education, which threatened the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh ways of life. After 1858, the British tried to interfere less with religious matters. In time, the Indian Universities Act created universities in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Some believe that 1857 was a pivotal point in Indian history. The better educated Indians who emerged from English-speaking schools in India, and who had learned about political parties, strikes and protest marches when they were in these schools, used these new methods against the British to gain their freedom. Had 1857 not happened, modern Indian history might have taken quite a different course, this was to have a major long-term impact on Britain's relationship with India.

Why were British soldiers stationed in India?

What happened on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1857?

What happened to Muslim mutineers that were captured?

When was peace declared?

How did British rule change in India after 1858?

## Term 1 – Homework 2

*Read each statement and decide whether it is true or false. Correct any false statements in the space provided.*

Statement.	True/False.	Corrected statement.
Britain ruled over 450 million people living in 56 different places all over the world at the height of its empire.		
The East India Company was set up in 1900.		
Sepoys were British soldiers.		
The Indian Mutiny began on 10 <sup>th</sup> April 1857.		
16 colonies in Africa were added to the British Empire between 1870-1900.		
Walter Tull helped the British in World War Two.		
Around 8.5 million people from the Empire volunteered to help Britain during World War One.		

## Term 1 – Homework 3

*Task – Complete a revision activity to revise for your end of unit assessment. Use p.10 of the knowledge organiser to give you some ideas of how you could revise. Complete your revision on p.14-15.*



## Wider Reading/Resources

### Empire:

Barmy British Empire (Horrible Histories) by Terry Deary.

The British Empire (Knowing History) by Robert Peal.

The British Empire: A Very Short Introduction by Ashley Jackson.

The Rise and fall of the British Empire by Aaron Wilkes.

Empire: How Britain made the modern world by Niall Ferguson.

The Rise and fall of the British Empire by Lawrence James.

The Decline and fall of The British Empire by Dr Piers Brendon

Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World by Niall Ferguson

Empire: What Ruling the World Did to the British by Jeremy Paxman Inglorious

Empire: What the British Did to India by Shashi Tharoor

Rise and fall of The British Empire by Lawrence James

### Slavery:

The Story of Slavery (Young Reading (Series 3) by Sarah Courtauld

American Slavery: 1619-1877 (Penguin history) by Peter Kolchin

A Short History of Slavery by James Walvin

The Slave Trade Events and Outcomes by Tom Monaghan

Freedom by Catherine Johnson

Passing for White by Tanya Landman

