

Year 8 History Knowledge Organiser

Empire and Slavery

Term 1

Name:

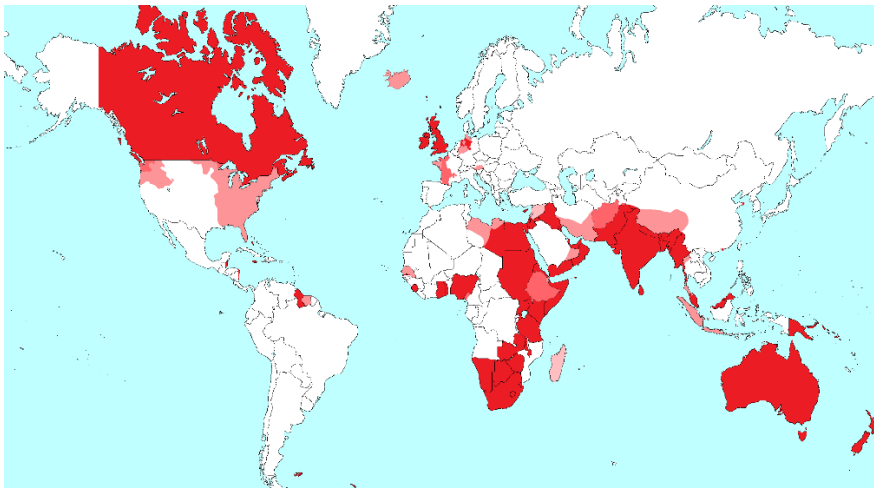
Class:



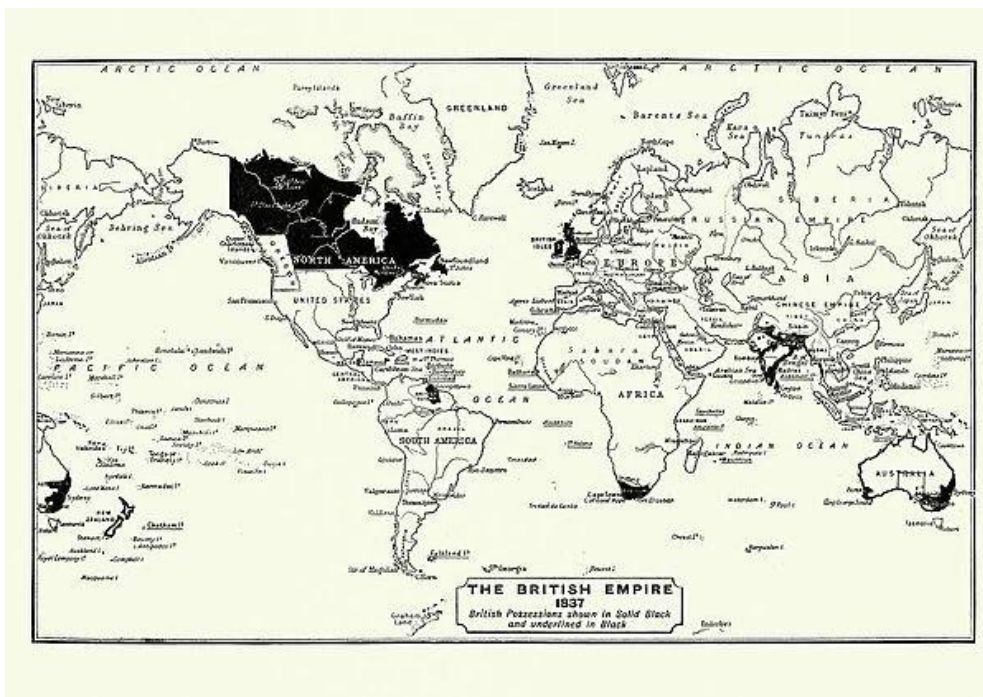
Big Question 1

What was the British Empire, and why did Britain have one?

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.



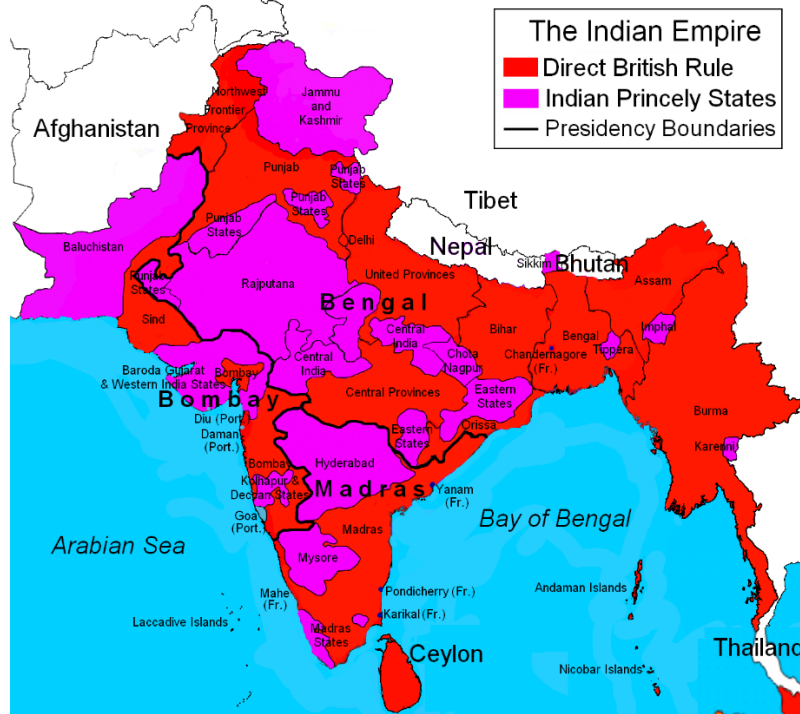
Above is the Empire in 1900 and in 1837 below (black shaded areas are the parts of the empire). See how much it grew rapidly.



Big Question 2

What was India like before the British arrived and how did British gain India?

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.



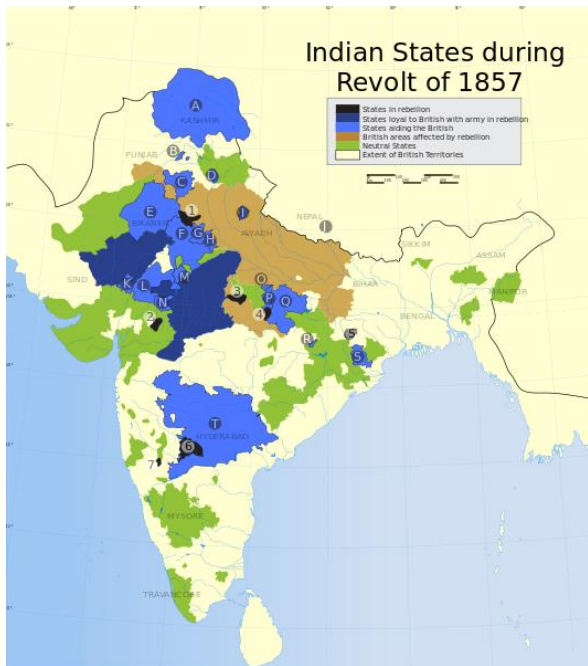
India before the British arrived was split into many warring states. By 1945 India was entirely British ruled along with present day Pakistan and Bangladesh. This happened between 1500 and 1900.



Big Question 3

Why did the Indians rebel in 1857?

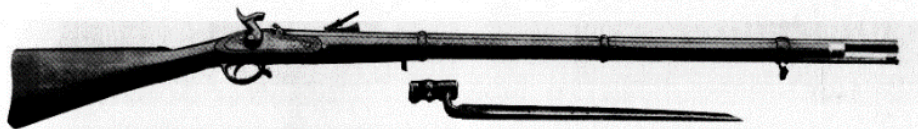
Why did the Indians rebel in 1857? The Indians rebelled in 1857 because of poor conditions in the army when they were fighting for the British. The new Enfield rifle cartridges were rumoured to contain pig and pork fat, both of which are against the religious beliefs of Muslims and Hindus.



Not all states in India rebelled some remained loyal and many remained unaffected.

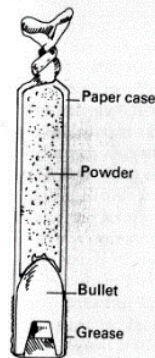
The rifle that caused the initial problem during the Indian mutiny.

The Enfield rifle



This percussion-lock rifle was produced in the British Ordnance Factory at Enfield near London. It came into use in the British army in 1853. Shortly afterwards it was sent out for trials for the Company army in India. The 'rifling' on the inside of the barrel made the shot more accurate and gave the weapon a greater range. It was an enormous improvement on the Brown Bess smooth-bore flintlock musket which had been the standard weapon of all British forces since the early eighteenth century.

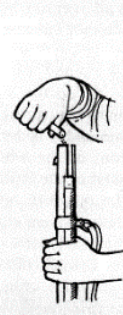
A greased cartridge



How it was loaded



1. The soldier tears open the end of the cartridge with his teeth.



2. He pours the powder down the muzzle of his rifle. Then he thrusts the bullet, still wrapped in the cartridge paper which makes it a tight fit, into the muzzle.



3. He takes his ramrod from its slot beneath the rifle barrel, and rams paper, bullet and powder to the bottom of the barrel.

Big Question 4

What was the impact of empire on Britain and India?

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.

IMPACT OF COLONIALISM...

POSITIVE IMPACT

- **British laid the worlds 3rd largest railroad network in India.**
 - This brought unity to the originally disconnected areas
 - Helped develop a modern economy.
- **Modern roads, dams, bridges, irrigation canals = modernization!**
- **Sanitation and public health improved!**
- **Schools and Colleges founded = High literacy (ability to read)**
- **British put an end to local wars between local rulers.**

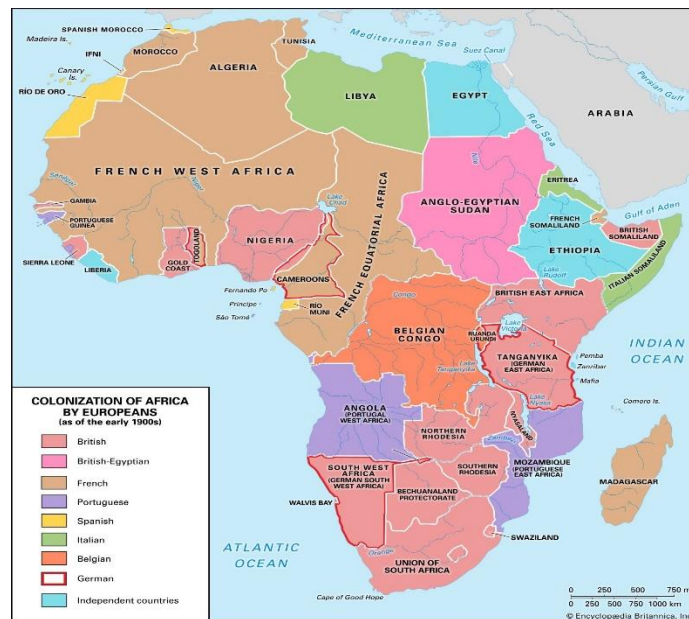
NEGATIVE IMPACT

- **British held political and economic power.**
- **British restricted INDIAN Industries from making a profit → all \$ put back into Britain.**
- **India produced crops JUST to sell them and give Britain a profit, not to EAT them, this creates famine and disease.**
- **Increased presence of missionaries and racism is harsh on Indian life.**

Big Question 5

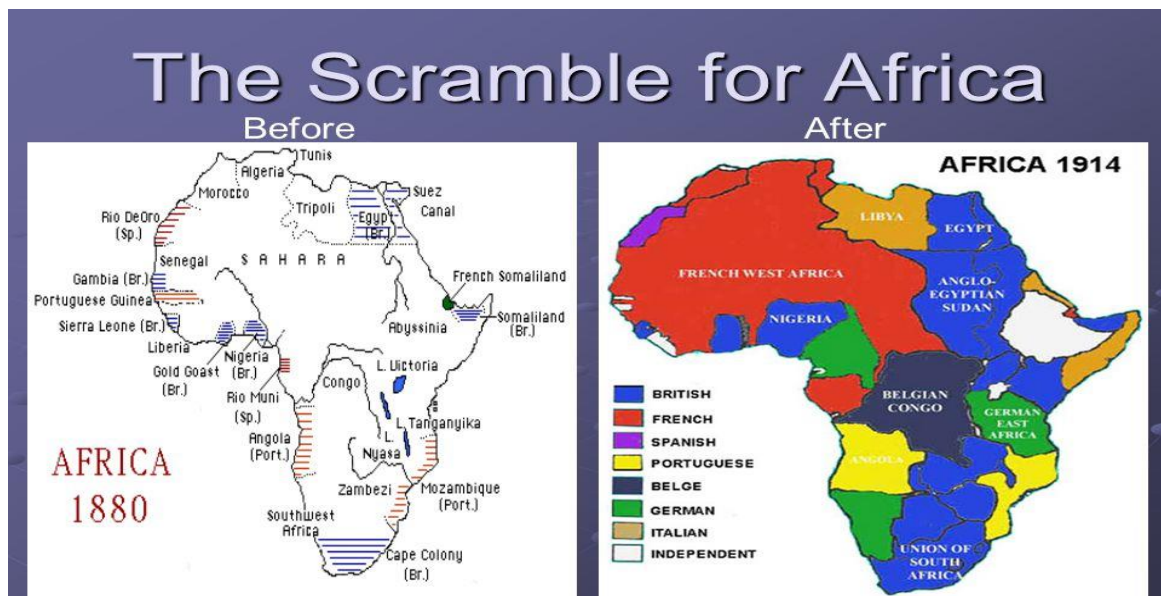
Why was there a Scramble for Africa?

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.



Africa was divided up by the European powers this was the scramble for Africa.

Africa before the Europeans was seen as the dark continent because Europeans knew little about it.



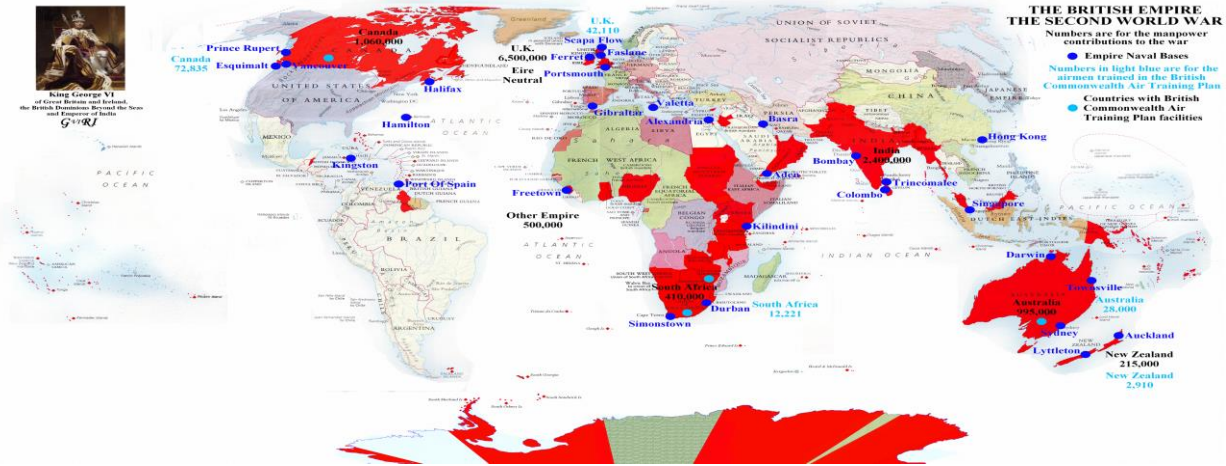
Big Question 6

How did the Empire help to win the Two World Wars?

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.



Many Empire or commonwealth countries helped Britain in the two World Wars as shown by the poster above and the map below.



Big Question 7 Should we celebrate our Empire?

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.

Britain was proud of its Empire at the time and celebrated it as progressive and civilizing.



Some disagree and feel we should not celebrate empire for exploiting other people and slavery.

Below is a diagram showing the key points of Empire for revision.



THE BRITISH EMPIRE

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Summary

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. This time is often referred to as the British Century.

The process through which the British (and other nations of 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.

Map showing the approximate extent of the British Empire at its peak. By 1920, the British Empire covered 35,500,000km², around 24% of Earth's land area.



Major Events

Beginnings

-During the Middle Ages, the kings of England tried to conquer other countries.

-As early as 1169, the Normans invaded Ireland.

-In 1277, Edward I conquered North Wales.

-In the Hundred Years War (1337-1453), Edward III and Henry V conquered large parts of France.

-By 1500, much of the gained land had been lost.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade

-One of the more horrific parts of the British Empire was its position at the heart of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

-For 400 years from the 15th Century, British slave traders are estimated to have bought or sold around 3 million slaves. Slavery made Britain incredibly wealthy.

-Britain banned slave trading in its empire from 1807.



The End of the British Empire

-Towards the end of the 19th 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 in its empire than it had been previously.

-By the late 1970s, the empire became reduced to a few pockets of territory around the world. Most people view the official end of the empire as the transfer of Hong Kong back to China in 1997.

The First British Empire (1497-1703)

-Throughout this time, English seamen reached places that Europeans had not previously been. They set up colonies there so that they could trade the resources.

-The first English colonies were in North America.

-Britain fought wars to protect its empire, including the 7 Years' War with France. Many American territories were lost in the American War of Independence.

The Second 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. Britons at the time were proud of the Empire and its power, however those living in colonies experienced inequality and loss of culture & religion.

Countries and Territories within the British Empire

Region	Image	Description	Key Vocabulary
NORTH AMERICA		North America was the location of the first British colonies. It was known as the 'New World'. From 1775, thirteen colonies in North America combined and fought to be free in the War of Independence. Their success led to the creation of the USA.	British Empire United Kingdom
CARIBBEAN		Over the course of the 17 th and 18 th centuries, Britain gained major colonies on the islands of the Caribbean Sea. The climate was perfect for growing sugar and tobacco, so plantations were set up. Britain became very rich from this.	Empire
AFRICA		From 1881 to 1902, Britain competed with other European empire-builders in what became known as the 'Scramble for Africa'. By the early 1900s, huge parts of Africa, including Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria, were under British rule.	Circumnavigation Exploration
ASIA		After losing huge parts of its colony in the American War of Independence, Britain turned its attention to parts of Asia in the 17 th and 18 th centuries, e.g. colonies were formed in the Middle East, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Hong Kong & Singapore.	Trade
INDIA		Areas of India were under British rule for hundreds of years. From the 1600s until 1858 these areas were run by the English East India Company. After 1858 until 1947 they became the British Raj. In 1876, Queen Victoria became 'Empress of India'.	Colony
AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND		Australia was a set of British colonies between 1788 and 1801. The first colonies were established as places where criminals were sent to live. Later, free settlers created colonies. From 1840 until 1907, New Zealand was a part of the British Empire.	Indigenous New World
ANTARCTICA		Antarctica was an area that many of the European colonisers did not begin to claim until much later. In 1906, the British government made a territorial claim including a large portion of Antarctica. British Antarctic territory remains to this day.	Indigenous Culture Tradition

Top 10 Facts!

- At its height, the British Empire was the largest empire that the world had ever seen.
- In 1922, it covered 24% of the Earth's surface and 23% of the world's population.
- Of the 3 million slaves that British slave traders bought or sold, around 300,000 did not survive the journey across the Atlantic.
- There were 26 years between Britain banning slavery and outlawing it altogether.
- British India was the most populous colony - around 320 million people lived there in 1925.
- Because there were territories all over the world, the British Empire became known as the empire on which the sun never sets.
- It included land on every continent.
- Britain was widely considered to be the world's only superpower between 1815 & 1900.
- The First World War damaged European economies. Britain was quickly surpassed by the USA as the world's leading power.
- Handing back Hong Kong to China in 1997 is often seen to be the last action of the Empire.

Timeline

pre-1497CE - British rulers attempt to conquer new lands.

1497 - John Cabot reaches Newfoundland in search of Asia.

1577-1580 - Sir Francis Drake completes his circumnavigation of the world.

1600 - The Formation of the East India Company.

1607 - First permanent settlement of Americas at Jamestown.

1775-1783 - American War of Independence.

1787 - First shipment of prisoners to Australia.

1867 - Canada given dominion (self-governing) status.

1876 - Queen Victoria is named the Empress of India.

Post 1918: Attitudes towards imperialism begin to change.

Big Question 8

What part has Britain played in slavery?

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. The purpose was trade and expanding business, slaves were a product to buy and sell.



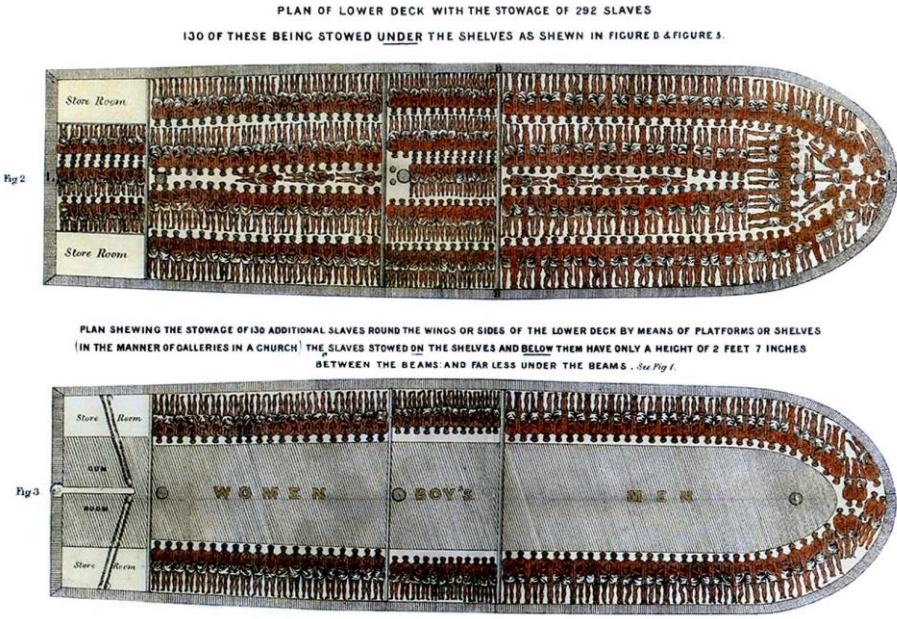
The slave trade was huge. British ships transported around 3 million enslaved people. It has been estimated overall, about 12 million Africans were enslaved and taken to the Americas. The death rate of the enslaved people was horrific. Unknown millions died in Africa before they even made it to the ships.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

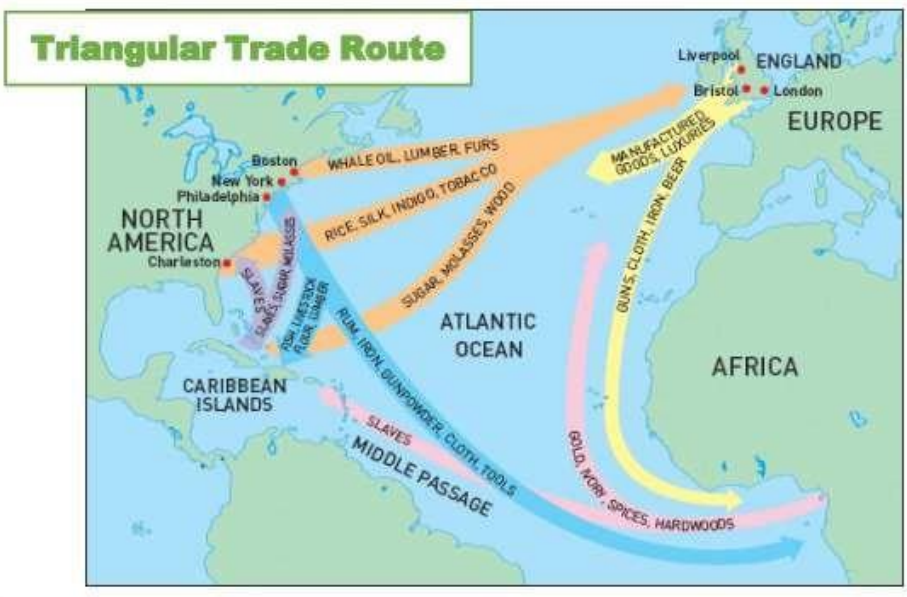
Big Question 9

How did the transatlantic triangular trade work?

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.



The middle passage was the taking of slaves from Africa to the American continent. This is a diagram from the time showing how to stow slaves for maximum profits.



Europeans took guns, cloth and iron to Africa



They took captives from Africa to North America and the Caribbean to sell as slaves.



Then they took tobacco, sugar, rum back to Europe to sell.

Big Question 10

What was life like on the plantation and how were slaves sold?

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.



TO BE SOLD & LET
BY PUBLIC AUCTION,
On *MONDAY* the 18th of *MAY*, 1829,
UNDER THE TREES.

FOR SALE,
THE THREE FOLLOWING
SLAVES,

VIZ.
HANNIBAL, about 30 Years old, an excellent House Servant, of Good Character.
WILLIAM, about 35 Years old, a Labourer.
NANCY, an excellent House Servant and Nurse.
The MEN belonging to "LEECHES" Estate, and the WOMAN to Mrs. D. SMIT

TO BE LET,
On the usual conditions of the Hires finding them in Food, Clo' in's, and Medical
Attendants.

MALE and FEMALE
SLAVES,

NO GOOD GUARANTEES.

ROBERT BAGLEY, about 20 Years old, a good House Servant.
WILLIAM BAGLEY, about 18 Years old, a Labourer.
JOHN ARMS, about 18 Years old.
JACK ANTONIA, about 40 Years old, a Labourer.
PHILIP, an Excellent Fisherman.
HARRY, about 27 Years old, a good House Servant.
LELY, a Young Woman of good Character, used to House Work and the Nursery.
ELIZY, an Excellent Waterman.
CLARA, an Excellent Waterman.
FANNY, about 14 Years old, House Servant.
SARAH, about 14 Years old, House Servant.

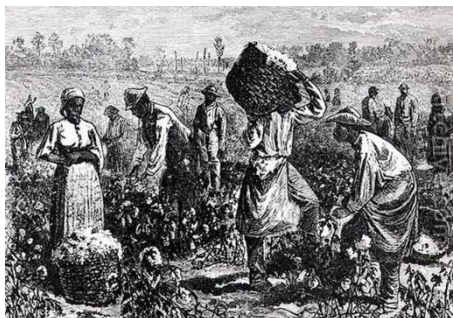
Also for Sale, at Eleven o'Clock,
Fine Rice, Gram, Paddy, Books, Muslins,
Needles, Pins, Ribbons, &c. &c.

AT ONE O'CLOCK, THAT CELEBRATED ENGLISH HORSE
BLUCHER,

AND ADDISON PRINTER GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

Slaves were sold at auctions similar to the one in the picture. Families were separated with children and adults being sold separately to different people. Once on the plantation the work was hard a lot of slaves were in the fields collecting cotton which needs to be hand collected.

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.



Big Question 11

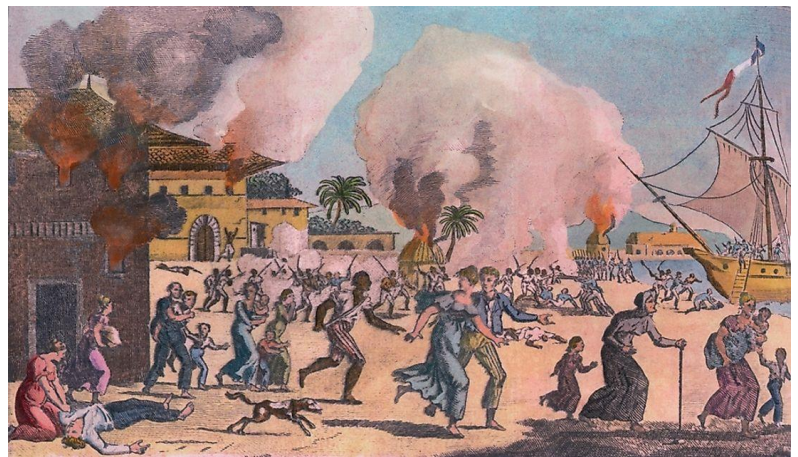
How effective were slave rebellions and resistance?

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 and Nat Turners rebellion.



Nat Turner's rebellion took place in the US and slaves killed their masters on several plantations. It was put down by local militia.

In the Haitian rebellion 1791-1804 the Haitian slaves eventually won independence from France and created their own country.



Some enslaved people on the plantations fought for their freedom by using passive resistance (working slowly or damaging tools or pretending not to understand.) or running away. The number of runaways came to be seen by slave owners as such a serious problem that most West Indian islands passed laws to deal with this and other forms of resistance.

Glossary




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




Slave triangle	The trading of slaves between Africa, the Americas, and Europe.
Trading stations	Large warehouses at ports where goods were stored and where trading took place.
Victoria Cross	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 th May 1857	Indian Mutiny starts.
July 1857	Battle of Cawnpore.
8 th 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.
Oludah Equiano	A slave that exposed conditions in his book.

What countries were part of the British Empire?

Countries and territories within the British Empire.		
North America		North America was the location of the first British colonies. It was known as the 'New World.' From 1775, thirteen colonies in North America combined and fought to be free in the War of Independence. Their success led to the creation of the USA.
Caribbean		Over the course of the 17 th and 18 th centuries, Britain gained major colonies on the islands of the Caribbean Sea. The climate was perfect for growing sugar and tobacco, so plantations were set up. Britain became very rich from this.
Africa		From 1901 to 1902, Britain competed with other European empire-builders in what became known as the 'Scramble for Africa.' By the early 1900s, huge parts of Africa, including Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria, were under British rule.

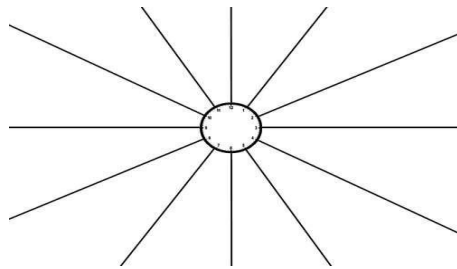
Asia		<p>After losing huge parts of its colony in the American War of Independence. Britain turned its attention to parts of Asia in the 18th and 19th centuries, e.g. colonies were formed in the Middle East, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Singapore.</p>
India		<p>Areas of India were under British rule for hundreds of years. From the 1600s until the 1850s these areas were run by the English East India Company. After 1850 until 1947 they became the British Raj. In 1876, Queen Victoria became 'Empress of India.'</p>
Australia/New Zealand		<p>Australia was a set of British colonies between 1780 and 1901. The first colonies were established as places where criminals were sent to live. Later, free settlers created colonies. From 1804 until 1907, New Zealand was part of the British Empire.</p>

How do I revise for end of topic assessments?

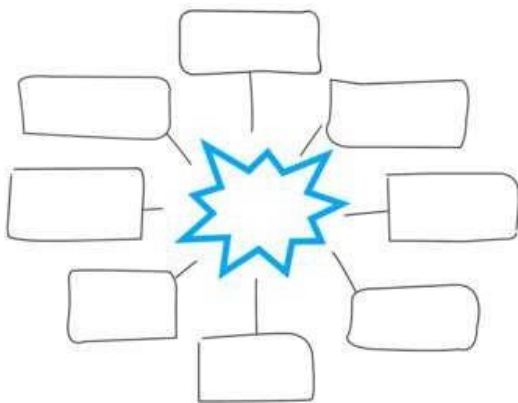


Revision clocks -

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.



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.22.

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 10th 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 8th 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.

Why were British soldiers stationed in India?

What happened on 10th May 1857?

What happened to Muslim mutineers that were captured?

When was peace declared?

How did British rule change in India after 185

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 th 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.		

Wider Reading/Resources

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 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

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

