

Year seven history: Topic Two

Empire

Key events and turning points covered in this topic

1607— Britain sets up its first colony in America

1612—Britain sets up its first trading post in India

1619—the British began transporting people from African colonies as slaves to the Americas

1770—Captain Cook sailed to Australia and claimed it for the British

1775-1783—The American War of Independence: America fought to become independent from the British Empire

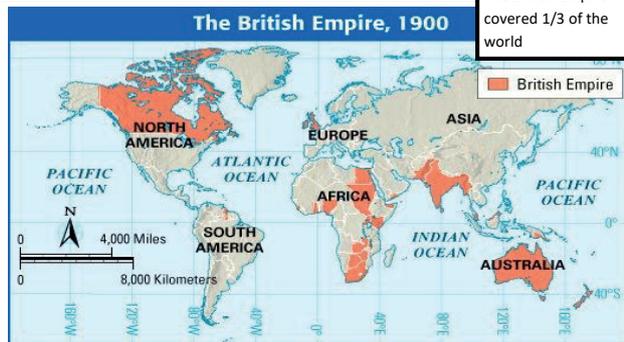
1787—The British start to use Australia as a penal colony (somewhere to send criminals)

1857—Indian mutiny against the British

1833—Slavery ends in British colonies

1947—India gained freedom from Britain

The British Empire covered 1/3 of the world



Objective: to be able to explain the causes for and consequences of the British Empire. To be able to explain the way that the Empire had shaped modern Britain.

Keywords:

Empire	A group of countries ruled over by one monarch
Native	Someone born in a particular place, rather than moving there later
Resources	Items of value which can be used or traded
Settlers	People who go to a new country to live there permanently
Significant	Being important or having a big effect over time
Sepoy	Indian men serving in the British army
Mutiny	Members of the armed forces refusing to fight
Oppression	Controlling a group of people in a way that takes away their freedoms and choices
Independence	Having the ability to make decisions about your own life rather than doing what somebody tells you
Conquer	To take control of an area using force

Key historical skills we are developing:

Interpretation—a view on a specific event. What do they think? Why do they have that view? How is their view different to someone else's? Why?

Usefulness—How can an historical source be used by an historian? What can it tell us about the past? Who produced it and why? Does this affect its usefulness? What else do you know about the subject of the source? Does it tell us everything we need to know?

Extended writing to explain—Give more than one reason why an event happened. Write in paragraphs. What extra knowledge/detail could you include to develop your writing? Can you add a conclusion about the most important reason for an event?

There are two assessments within this topic.

Assessment 1 will focus on:

- Knowledge questions retrieving key skills e.g. centuries, keywords, key events studied
- How Britain controlled India
- Why having an Empire was important to Britain

Assessment 2 will focus on:

- Knowledge questions retrieving key skills e.g. centuries, keywords, key events studied
- Britain's role in Australia
- Britain's role in the slave trade



Overview: How did the British Control its Empire?

Due to huge size of the Empire, Britain had to develop a variety of methods in order to keep control of the variety of colonies under her Empire.

Military Force – Britain's weaponry developed throughout this period, inventing weapons such as the Maxim gun – one of the first machine guns invented. They also stopped guns coming into the hands of those in the Empire. The Africans had poor quality weaponry, they made their own bullets which broke their guns sometimes.

Use of Locals – The British went on a charm offensive, making the local rich people feel wanted and gave them more money and power. Local people ran the police, law courts and prisons, making them feel in charge of their country and less likely to break laws.

Communication – The British could easily communicate between the countries of their empire using methods such as telegraphs, radios and ships.

Gradual Change – The British didn't try to change everything at once, they gradually changed and developed areas of countries.

Dealing with Resistance – The British were efficient in stopping anyone who opposed the Empire. Protestors were immediately jailed and broke up local armies.

Can you find examples of these methods being used as you are studying each empire country?