

# The British Empire



## Workbook

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date started: \_\_\_\_\_

# Lesson 1 – What is an Empire?

## Objectives


Know features of a powerful country.

Explain what an empire is.

Analyse the growth of the British Empire.

## Activity 1 – 10 minutes

Create a mind map – What does a country need to be powerful?



What does  
a country  
need to be  
powerful?

## Activity 2 – 15 minutes

Read through the 'What is an Empire?' (page 4)

1. What things do these Empires have in common? Create a list of as many similarities between these Empires as possible.

2. What key words can you pick out of the text which helps define Empire? Create a spider diagram of empire keywords.

3. Write your own definition of Empire?

## Activity 3 – 20 minutes

Mapping History - Using the Empire Maps (page 5)

1. How did the British Empire change? Compare the extent of the British Empire between 1763 and 1900.

2. What was the biggest change? (You need to prioritise here!)

3. "By 1900 Britain ruled the waves." Does your map show this?

*ALL: Explain your answer – MOST: Explain both sides of argument – SOME: Explain both sides and give overall conclusion*



# What is an Empire?

<p>STAR WARS</p>		<p>In the Star Wars film, Darth Vader works for the Emperor. It is their objective to take over the galaxy. The Emperor wants control of the other planets, so he can exploit their people and resources. The Emperor is at the head of the Empire, and gives orders to this 'subjects,' who carry out his wishes.</p>
<p>ROMAN EMPIRE</p>		<p>The Roman Empire transformed the shape of Europe and was lead by the Emperor. It conquered much territory through the use of force and war. In order to survive, Rome imported many goods from the lands it had obtained. For example, they imported timber and jewellery from Africa and spices and cotton from India and China.</p>
<p>ALAN SUGAR</p>		<p>It is suggested that Alan Sugar is at the head of a business Empire. He owns a company by the name of Amstrad which has several different branches. For example, he owns an airline, and an IT company. His business philosophy is 'profit and efficiency.'</p>
<p><u>TASK TWO</u> What things do these Empire's have in common?</p>	<p>What key words can you pick out of the text which helps define Empire?</p>	<p>Write your own definition of Empire.</p>



# Mapping History

## The British Empire, 1763



## The British Empire, 1900



# Lesson 2 – Why have an Empire?

## Objectives

- Explain what makes an Empire
- Assess the motives for building an empire
- Evaluate the most important motive to build an Empire

## Activity 1 – 10 minutes

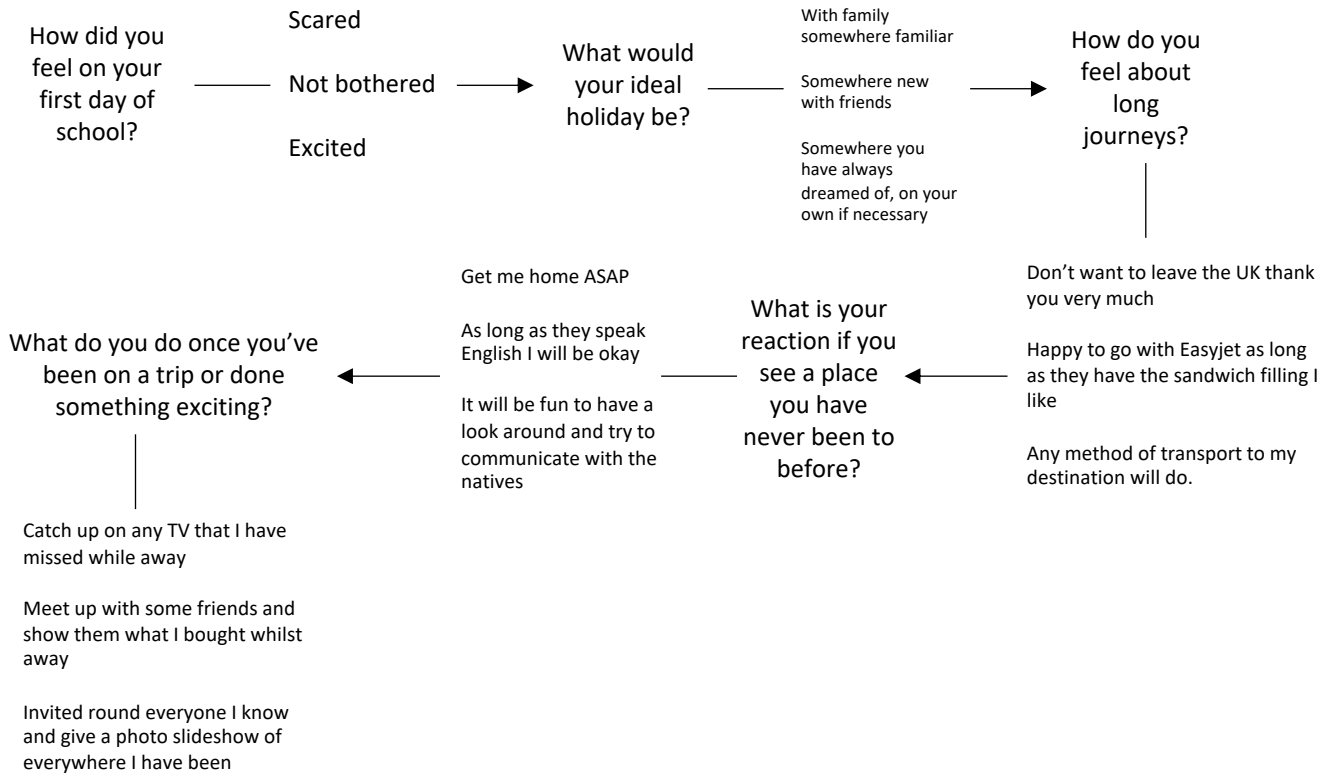
What qualities does an explorer need? (page 9)

- Read about each of the explorers and list their most important qualities; for example determination.

Sir Francis Drake	Sir Walter Raleigh	John Cabot	Henry Hudson

## Activity 2 – 10 minutes

Follow the route of a GREAT explorer – Circle the option you think they would choose!



## Reflection

- Describe what makes a good explorer

## Activity 3 – 10 minutes

Why would Britain want an Empire?

Read through the options below. Decide which ones would be real reasons for wanting an Empire and HIGHLIGHT them.

Rank them in order of importance. 1 being most important reason.

Categories:  
Trade (buying and selling)      Jobs      Religion      Exploration      Military (army or navy)  
Power      Education

Many British people wanted to civilise the native people	British merchants were importing goods from all over the world
Captain Cook wanted to discover new lands	Britain exported £ 141 million worth of goods in 1842
Australia and Canada had huge areas of uninhabited land	Sugar could be imported and then sold to Holland and Germany
The Royal Navy was the largest in the world	The Empire provided a market for British goods
Britain had 6,000 traders and 100,000 seamen	Missionaries were sent out to every part of the Empire
Meat, wool, silk, spices, gold, rice, chocolate, diamonds.	Britain wanted to export its language, laws and customs
Some imports from the colonies started new industries	Raw materials from the colonies could be processed in Britain
Australia and Canada would be useful in solving the unemployment problems in Britain	The empire could provide ports for the Royal Navy
Britain was the workshop of the world	"Go ye therefore and teach all nations"
Britain was a net importer of food by the Eighteenth century	France and Germany were also keen to build empires
Rule Britannia	Botanists and explorers were supported by the Royal Geographical society
The British thought they were morally superior to the natives	Britain wanted to rule the world
The British though that the people of Africa were godless	Many young men were bored with the daily grind in Britain
The population of the empire could provide thousands of men for the British army	Colonies offered cheap natural resources .
The empire was exciting and interesting	Lancashire cotton mills depended on the Indian market
The Indian civil service and the army provided plenty of job opportunities	The colonies had to buy British goods and nobody else's
India had 200 million Hindus,60 million Muslims, 6 million Sikhs and 2 million Buddhists	The British government became rich by taxing the profits of the British traders

## Activity 4 – 15 minutes

### Evaluate the most important motive to build an Empire

Paragraph One – The most important reason the British built an empire is...

Paragraph Two – Another important reason the British built an empire is...

Paragraph Three – Another reason why the British built an Empire is....This is not as important because...



## **Sir Walter Raleigh c. 1552 – 1618**

Sir Walter Raleigh was one of Queen Elizabeth I's favourite courtiers (a person who attends the king or queen in a royal court). As well as being a soldier and a sailor, he was a clever speaker and writer. He wrote many poems praising Elizabeth.

Raleigh knew that Spaniards had found gold and silver in the New World and wanted to do the same. Between 1584 and 1587 Raleigh made four voyages to the North American continent and showed great courage in exploring the coast between present day Florida and North Carolina. He called this land "Virginia," after Queen Elizabeth (the "Virgin Queen") and attempted to establish colonies there.

Although Raleigh made two attempts to found permanent settlements in Virginia, neither lasted for long. The settlers lacked the essential food and supplies to survive. They failed to produce enough of their own food or to buy what they needed by selling crops, such as sugar and tobacco. Raleigh was not put off by these failures and brought back to England potatoes and tobacco, which soon became popular.

In 1595 Raleigh set out for Guiana, in South America. He was looking for El Dorado, the fabled city of gold, but found nothing. After Queen Elizabeth died, Raleigh's luck changed—James I didn't trust him and put him in prison. In 1617 James I gave him a last chance to find El Dorado, but again he failed and this time he was executed.

## **John Cabot c. 1450 – c. 1499**

Cabot was an Italian merchant who arrived in England in 1494. Like Christopher Columbus, he planned to sail west across the Atlantic in search of the Spice Islands of eastern Asia. However, he decided to make the voyage at a more northerly latitude because this would make the journey shorter.

Cabot needed to find someone to finance the trip. Despite being rejected by the kings of Spain and Portugal, Cabot showed great determination and took his idea to Henry VII of England. Henry has previously refused to sponsor Columbus. This time, however, he was aware of the riches of the New World and was eager to support Cabot so that he could profit from the discoveries.

In May 1497 Cabot set sail from Bristol on board the *Matthew*. He showed great bravery in sailing to a part of the world unknown to Europe. A month later he landed in Newfoundland, off the east coast of Canada, which he claimed for England. He had not found Asia, nor had he found wealth, but he had discovered rich fishing grounds and lands not yet claimed by Spain. Fish was an important part of the European diet and the population of Europe was growing during the sixteenth century, so there was a greater demand for food.

## **Henry Hudson c. 1560s– c.1611.**

Hudson was an Englishman and an experienced navigator wanted to explore North America, especially Canada. He also wanted to find the North-West Passage (the route to the Pacific Ocean over Canada).

In 1609 Hudson discovered a big river on the east coast of America, which he named the Hudson River (New York). In 1610, showing great bravery, seamanship and determination, he sailed his ship *Discovery* around Northern Canada before heading south towards what he hoped would be the Pacific Ocean. In fact, it turned out to be the vast, but landlocked bay now called Hudson Bay.

Hudson was not put off by this setback and wanted to sail on, but his crew refused. In 1611 they mutinied and put Hudson, his son and the loyal members of his crew in an open boat with no oars. They were left to die.

Hudson had explored many areas of Canada which later became English colonies. After he died, the Hudson Bay Company was set up to organise and control trade with the colonies.

## **Sir Francis Drake c. 1540 – 1596.**

Drake was the son of a poor farm worker and one of 12 children. He became an apprentice on ships in the English Channel. Once he had served his apprenticeship, Drake began attacking Spanish ships, and gained a reputation as a brilliant and fearless privateer (a commander of a ship who is given rewards by the government for attacking the ships of another country). Drake was really more like a pirate, but he attacked Spain, which was England's enemy, so Queen Elizabeth trusted and liked him. He returned to England with lots of gold stolen from the Spanish, which he shared with the queen.

On his return from his voyage of 1577-1580 (around the world), Drake was welcomed as a hero. A medal was made in his honour and he was knighted by the Queen. He was only the second person to have travelled around the world. Elizabeth I received £300,000 as her share of Drake's profits from this journey, a huge amount.

Drake became the Mayor of Plymouth and then an MP. In 1587 he led a daring raid on Cadiz harbour in Spain, where preparations were being made for the Armada. Drake burnt and destroyed valuable supplies and this delayed the launching of the Armada. He also was really important in defeating the Spanish Armada.

In 1595 Elizabeth I sent Drake on another mission against the Spanish. He tried to take the island of Gran Canaria, but he was beaten. He became ill and died the following year.

# Lesson 3 – Britain: winning or losing an empire?

## Objectives

Explain how and why Britain lost or won their colonies.

Assess whether the British Empire was a good thing.

Evaluate whether the British empire was a good or bad thing.

## Activity 1 – 15 minutes

Wars of the Empire

Read through the country fact files.

- Summarise what happened in each country.

- Colour code good events and bad events. You can add these to the table if you wish.

Country	What happened	Good	Bad

## Activity 2 – 10 minutes

Based on the information from the fact files, list as many reasons as you can to **explain** why some people around the world believed that the British Empire was a bad thing.

*For example:*

*Paying taxes but having no representation, this was bad because...*

## Activity 3 – 15 minutes

### Stop the Empire from striking back!

Imagine you are in control of the Tardis. Your task is to go back in time and make sure that Britain keeps one of the colonies that Britain lost. (Afghanistan or North America)

Activity: Write a report to evaluate what you would have done differently in order to keep the colony.

Hints:

Why did the locals fight back? How could you change this?

## Activity 4 – 10 minutes

YES

NO

Draw where you stand - why do you hold this view? Don't forget to justify with evidence!



# Africa

British slave traders had been taking Africans to America since Tudor times but Britain started to take much more interest in the continent in the nineteenth century. People such as David Livingstone travelled deep into Africa to places that Europeans had never been to before. Gold, diamonds, cotton, corn, vegetable oil and copper were all valuable raw materials available on the African continent. Merchants and settlers soon followed Livingstone, and Britain took control of vast parts of Africa after 1870.

Queen Victoria's armies fought a number of wars there, both against Africans and European settlers from other countries. In 1880 and 1899, they fought against the descendants of Dutch settlers (known as Boers) for control of South Africa and its gold and diamonds mines. In both wars, the modern, well-equipped British Army suffered humiliating defeats by armies made up of simple farmers and lost of 20,000 men.

Eager for more land, in 1879 Britain started a war against Zululand—a country that was next door to the South African colonies. A quick and easy victory was expected against the Zulus who were armed merely with simple shields and spears. But the ferocious Zulu overwhelmed the invading troops and an entire British army was wiped out at the Battle of Isandlwana.

Following both the Boer and Zulu wars, huge amounts of money and thousands of reinforcements meant that South Africa remained part of the British Empire. Between 1880 and 1900, European countries divided up most of the continent between themselves in the "scramble for Africa". Britain ended up controlling 16 African colonies.

# AFGHANISTAN

In 1838, the East India Company (the British in control of India) sent an army of around 16,000 to Afghanistan to increase their power in the region.

Although they managed to capture the capital, Kabul, and put their own man in charge, the Afghans kept attacking and killed the top British general and paraded his chopped up body through the streets. The rest of the Company's army decided it was time to leave in 1842 but were attacked all the way back to India. Of the 16,000 that set out on that retreat, only one man—William Brydon—made it back to the British base at Jalalabad!

The invasion of Afghanistan has gone down as one of the greatest disasters in British History.

# North America



Britain had had colonies in North America since the reign of James I and, by 1750, there were 13 separate British colonies in what is now called the USA. Many people had moved from Britain to live in these colonies and, by 1773, they had begun to become frustrated

by being ruled from London. They were forced to pay large taxes to the British Government but weren't allowed a say in any decisions that it made. British imports of tea were thrown into the bay as a protest during the Boston Tea Party, and on the 4th July 1776, the Americans declared their independence from Britain.

Parliament sent an army to regain control but, after 5 years of fighting, the American War of Independence was over. The 13 colonies joined together to form the United States and, in 1789, American appointed its first President, George Washington. This valuable colony was lost forever!

# Australia and New Zealand



Although Captain Cook reached Australia in 1770 and claimed it for Britain—there were already thousands of people living there! The British believed these natives, known as Aborigines, were inferior because they lived simple lives that were in tune with the environment around them. In some cases, the Aborigines were hunted and killed like animals—for fun. When the British reached the Australian island of Tasmania in 1802, there were 20,000 Aborigines living there. Eighty years later, there was not a single one left.

Australia was used as a prison from 1788 and thousands of convicts were taken there. In the 1850s, gold was discovered and many British people moved there to make their fortune. By 1900, there were about 4 million Europeans living in Australia.

Although Captain Cook had also sailed to New Zealand, he didn't claim it for Britain. The New Zealand Company, based in London, traded with the natives, known as Maoris, and made large profits selling guns. In 1840, there were rumours that that French were going to seize control of the islands, so the British persuaded the Maori chiefs to sign over their country to Queen Victoria. When the Maoris tried to change their minds, they felt the full force of the British Army and, during wars with the various tribes, the Maori population was reduced from 100,000 to around 35,000.



# India

Britain's Empire began when Queen Elizabeth I allowed companies to travel the world and trade goods under her name. Merchants set up trading posts in foreign lands and started to make big profits buying and selling goods. The raw materials found in India, tea, cotton, rubber, spices, dyes, coffee, were essential for Britain's factories and wealth. In order to protect the supply of these goods, British traders in India set up the East India Company which gradually took control of large areas of land from more and more Indian princes. Eventually, all of India (which included Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) became part of the British Empire, and Queen Victoria was given the title Empress of India.

The East India Company's trading posts at Surat, Madras, Bombay and Calcutta turned into major cities and were the key to Britain gaining control of India. The Company had its own army and navy and used them against the various rulers of India. At the Battle of Plassey in 1757, 3000 Company troops (2200 were Indians) defeated a combined Indian and French force of over 40,000. Much of the victory was due to the bribing of Indian generals but it meant that Bengal—the richest part of India—was run and controlled by the East India Company.

Over the following decades, the various Indian princes and rulers were played against each other, more wars were fought and more land came under control of the Company. In 1857, the Indian soldiers (who made up 80% of the Company's army) mutinied over the use of pork and beef fat in their rifle cartridges. This led to the British government taking direct control of India.

To many people in Britain, India, with its huge population and wealth of raw materials, was the most important colony of them all. It became known as the "jewel in the crown."



# Lesson 4 – What was India like before the British arrived?

## Objectives

- To identify what India was like before the British took over
- To explain why India was so attractive to other nations
- To analyze why India would be a good colony

## India: The “Jewel in the Crown”

In 1500 the whole of the Subcontinent (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan) was known as “India”

In reality the whole region was made up of a lot of different kingdoms.



## Activity 3 – 25 minutes

### Location, Location, Location!

Read through the information on India (page 15)

It's 1550.

- You are a representative for an Empire Agency.
- Your task is to sell India to the highest bidder.
- You have to make a poster to sell India.
- You can only use 100 words

Higher Level:

- You can only use 80 words!

Your poster must include:

- Where is India?
- Who has already tried to invade India?
- What raw materials does India have?
- What is the history of India?
- What are the cultural highlights?
- Most importantly why India?

## Why India?

1. List 5 reasons why India would be attractive to potential Empire builders.
2. Rank them in order of importance 1 (most important) – 5 (least important)
3. Explain which reason you think was most important and why you think that.

Here are examples to help you:

Basic level:

The most important reason why India would be attractive to potential Empire builders is ..... I think this because .....

Higher level:

Develop an essay style answer using a separate paragraph for the five reasons you have identified.

Reason	Ranking

Explanation for ranking

# Religion In India



Brihadeeswarar Hindu Temple in Thanjavur.

**Hinduism originated in India.**



Mahabodhi Buddhist Temple in Bodhi Gaya.

**Buddhism originated in India.**



The Golden Temple in Amritsar—the holiest place of worship for Sikhs

**Sikhism originated in India.**

Other religions, such as Judaism, Christianity and Islam are also worshipped in India.

# Divided Nation?

At various times throughout India's history, science, technology, engineering, art, literature, mathematics, astronomy and religion have flourished.

In the early 1500s many European nations began to sail to India to trade. The subcontinent was divided into lots of kingdoms. Most of them were run Hindu princes and occasionally the kingdoms would go to war against each other. There were long peaceful periods too.

Ruling over all the Hindu princes was the Mughal Emperor. The Mughas, who were Muslims, had invaded India in the early 1500s. Within decades the great Mughal Emperor, Akbar, had managed to unite many of the Indian states. Akbar the Great was well known for his knowledge of literature, great architecture and religious tolerance.

Akbar's grandson, Shah Jahan, who also became Emperor, built the famous Taj Mahal, one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. He built in memory of his third wife, who died giving birth to their fourteenth child!

However, Shah Jahan's son, Aurang Zeb, was a fanatical Muslim and picked on followers of India's other religions. As wars broke out all over India, the Mughals eventually lost control of the country...

...this was exactly when the Europeans arrived.

# Invading India

The Persians and Iranians settled in India in ancient times.

Genghis Khan invaded and looted it—and so did Alexander the Great.

The Chinese came to India in pursuit of knowledge and to visit the ancient Indian universities.

Then came the French....  
...and finally the Brits!

Several European nations saw the wars between the Hindu princes as an opportunity to increase their own power. Many nations, but mainly the Dutch, French and British, realised that by helping certain Indian princes (with weapons and soldiers for example), they could turn the wars any way they wanted. Then when their new ally beat the enemy, they could demand rewards from the prince—perhaps lands or goods! Furthermore, if they ever fell out with him and fought against him, they usually ended up winning and taking his land!



# Jewels of India

India is rich in natural resources—iron ore, copper, gold, silver, gemstones, tea and timber.



Spices (which were very valuable in the Middle Ages) were common in India too. This meant that any country that made strong trade



links with India could potentially become very rich and powerful....but even more powerful if they manage to take over the whole country.

