



Geography: Location

- The British Empire expanded into many countries/ continents for specific reasons:
- America: was colonised for land to create plantations (huge farms where tobacco/sugar were grown)
- Africa: was colonised for precious gems and slaves
- India: was colonised for cotton and tea
- Australia: became a penal colony where Britain could send all their criminals who had been convicted.
- Hong Kong: access to sell opium (a kind of drug) to China



History: Consequences

- Sir John Hawkins was responsible for the creation of the Slave Triangle—from Britain to Africa to America
- British trading companies, such as the East India Company, became so powerful that they controlled much of the trade in the colonies and around the world.
- Colonies provided valuable raw materials, such as sugar, tea, tobacco and cotton, which were imported into Britain.
- The British Empire was at the height of its power in the early 1900s, when it asked over 1 million soldiers to fight to protect it.



History: Historical Significance

- King Henry VII- gave permission for John Cabot to sail the Atlantic for in search of trade routes to the Middle East.
- John Cabot led an expedition, got lost and ended up in America where he claimed land in the name of the king; he named it New-found-land.
- Captain John Smith set up the first successful colony in America.
- Captain James Cook was the first person to explore Australia.
- Queen Victoria declared herself the Empress of India.
- Sir Walter Raleigh was a privateer who raided Spanish colonies and stole their gold.



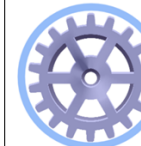
History: Change and Continuity

- The British Empire began in 1601 and ended in 1997.
- Throughout the time of the empire, countries gradually gained their independence, or it was taken by force.
- The Commonwealth is different to the British Empire, where it is not about control from one country, rather countries are free to be associated with each other. Many countries in the Commonwealth were also once a part of the Empire.



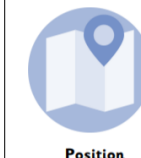
History: Historical interpretation

- History has since reflected on the Empire and many apologies have been issued.
- Towns have removed statues and streets renamed to avoid links to the Empire and the past.
- Now there are debates about pieces of history being held in the British Museum that came from countries from the empire and whether they should be returned.



History: Cause

- Britain built the empire on trade of goods it needed.
- Elizabeth I, envious of the Spanish and Portuguese Empires in the New World, encouraged exploration of the world.
- In the 16th and 17th centuries, British colonies were established in North America and the Caribbean (known as the West Indies at the time) and important trading posts were set up in India.



Geography: Position

The Empire grew to include large areas of North America, Australia, New Zealand, Asia and Africa, as well as small parts of Central and South America.

At one time, over 400 million people lived under the Empire in 13 colonies, all strategically placed for trading.

In 1922, it was the largest empire the world had ever seen, covering around a quarter of Earth's land surface.

Westacre Middle School Knowledge Web for Year 7 Summer — Rise and Fall



Westacre Wonderful Words for Year 7's topic: Rise and Fall



British- means belonging or relating to the United Kingdom

***Empire-** an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state

Adventurer- a person who takes risks for financial or political gain

Boycott- a form of protest where some countries would not trade with others

Civil servant- someone employed by the government to help run its affairs

***Colony (plural: colonies)-** countries or areas under the control of another country

Commodities- raw materials that are bought and sold

Commoners- people without rank or title

***Consumers-** the people who purchased a particular product

Convicts- prisoners who had committed a crime

Decline- a gradual and continuous loss of strength, numbers, quality, or value

Exile- being excluded from one's homeland

Expatriate- a person who lives outside their native country

Exports- goods that are sold abroad

Guerrilla- a person who fights in an unofficial military group

Imperial- related to an empire

Imports- goods that are purchased from abroad

Impoverished- deprived of strength or vitality/ made poor

Indentured- bound by contract to provide labour for certain amount of time

***Independence-** free from outside control; not subject to another's authority

Investment- money paid into something with the hope of making more money

***Manufactures-** goods made on a large scale using machines

Maori- the indigenous people of New Zealand

Merchant- a person or company involved in trading goods

***Monopoly-** the exclusive trade in a particular place or country

Mutiny- a rebellion by soldiers against officers

Nationalised- taken from private ownership into ownership by the government

Navigators- people who guide transport ships

Navy- the branch of the armed services which conducts military operations at sea

Noble- people with rank or title

Partitioned- divided into parts e.g. the British partitioned India

Plantation- an estate on which crops such as coffee, sugar, and tobacco are grown

Privateers- people or ships with a government's permission to attack merchant ships of another country (basically legal pirates)

Settler- a person who moves with a group of others to live in a new country or area

Slavery- when a person is the legal property of another and is forced to obey them

Strategic- relating to long-term or scale plans

Subcontinent- a large part of the continent that can be distinguished from the rest

Superpower- a globally powerful and influential nation

Survey- to examine and record an area of land or sea

Territory- an area of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler or state

Transportation- the practise of sending convicts to another colony (known as a penal colony)