

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Empire</b>	A group of countries ruled over by a single monarch or head of state.
<b>Imperialism</b>	Extending a country's power through taking land often done by military/armed force.
<b>Colony</b>	A country under the rule/control of another country.
<b>Colonialisation</b>	The process of settling among and taking control of native/indigenous people.
<b>Indigenous</b>	Originating from a certain place.
<b>Economic</b>	Relating to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Key points

- The British Empire began in the late 1500s under Queen Elizabeth I.
- By 1913 the empire had grown to rule over 400 million people, making it the largest empire in history.
- British government and society benefitted economically from the empire.
- The people colonised by the British had British laws and customs imposed upon them, lost their ability to rule themselves and were, in many cases, violently oppressed.

Why did Britain build an empire?

Britain decided to build an empire for several reasons. These included:

- To gain more money
- To gain more power
- To spread Christianity and British ways of life.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Military</b>	The armed forces of a country.
<b>Trade</b>	Buying and selling of goods.
<b>Raw materials</b>	The basic/natural materials from which goods are made.
<b>Royal society</b>	The oldest and most prestigious scientific society in Britain. It was formed by followers of Francis Bacon to promote scientific discussion especially in the physical sciences and received its charter (official royal backing) from Charles II in 1662.
<b>Empirical</b>	Based on evidence, observation and experience rather than theory.
<b>Exploitation</b>	The action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work.



## Picture This

**Jewel in the Crown**

With a population over 300 million, raw materials such as tea, silk and spices which Britain could sell, India became the richest part of the Empire for Britain.





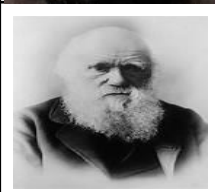

**East India Company:**

From 1757 onwards, the British East India Company began to control much of India. The money the British made by exploiting local rulers and workers funded the continuing progress of the Industrial Revolution. In 1858, India became an official colony of the British Empire.

The Scramble for Africa:

In the 1880s the 'Scramble for Africa' took place (a competition between powerful European countries to gain land in Africa) and Britain came to control 30 per cent of the African population, with several African kingdoms destroyed in the process.

## Key individuals

<b>Queen Victoria</b>		Was queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (1837-1901) and empress of India (1876-1901).
<b>Robert Clive</b>		Robert Clive paved the way for British rule in India, fighting several key battles with the French for control of trade in India. This helped cement the economic power that allowed the British Empire to grow, as well as forging the strong connections between India and Britain that still exist today.
<b>Mahatma Gandhi</b>		Mahatma Gandhi has come to be known as the Father of Indian independence and a beacon of light in the last decades of British colonial rule, promoting non-violence, justice and harmony between people of all faiths.
<b>Isaac Newton</b>		Sir Isaac Newton was an English mathematician, physicist, astronomer, alchemist, theologian, and author widely recognised as one of the greatest mathematicians and physicists of all time and among the most influential scientists.
<b>Charles Darwin</b>		Charles Robert Darwin was an English naturalist, geologist and biologist, best known for his theory of evolution.
<b>Captain James Cook</b>		Cook was a British explorer who discovered Australia in 1770. Cook named the continent New South Wales and claimed it for Great Britain.

## Consequences of the Empire

**Positive:**

- Infrastructure - Britain gave its colonies developments such as roads and railways.
- Language - Through the Empire, the English language spread, allowing people to communicate using one language.
- Culture - The Empire made Britain more diverse.
- Democracy - Britain brought the idea of democracy to its colonies.
- Commonwealth - The Commonwealth provided the old colonies with help and support after the Empire ended.
- Law and Order - The Empire brought their legal system to the colonies.
- Education - The British Empire brought their education system to the colonies.
- Science - The Empire increased scientific knowledge through the resources gained from and communication with colonies.

**Negative:**

- Culture - British culture was forced on the colonists, while the original culture was eroded.
- Economics - The colonies' economy was falling because most of the profit went back to Britain.
- Soldiers - The colonies had to provide soldiers who fought and died for Britain, including WWI and WWII.
- Religion - The Empire forced Christianity onto the colonists, stopping the practice of other religions.
- Disease - The British brought with them new diseases which killed lots of people.
- Theft - The Empire took land and resources from the colonies.
- Slavery - African slaves were taken to America to be sold

**The End of Empire (de-colonisation)**

Many historians believe that the end of the British empire started when the countries with large white populations of European descent were given Dominion status (part of the empire but allowed to rule itself). The first was Canada in 1867, then Australia became a dominion in 1901 and South Africa became a dominion in 1910.

In terms of size, the British Empire was at its largest in the years following World War One, when it gained some of Germany's former colonies.

In the mid-1900s, Britain's situation changed completely. By the end of World War Two in 1945 it became clear that:

- Britain could no longer afford to maintain its empire
- British attitudes were changing, as more people began to believe that having an empire was wrong and that Britain had no right to rule over other states by force
- Independence movements were growing in many different colonies. This included the Quit India campaign, led by Mohandas Gandhi.

**TASKS TO HELP YOU REVISE**

1. State three colonies in the British Empire.
2. Explain why Britain wanted an empire.
3. Explain the positive consequences of the British Empire.
4. Explain the negative consequences of the British Empire.
5. Explain why Gandhi was significant.

