

Knowledge Organiser

Year Group	Subject	Topic
6	History	Colonialism

The Big Picture

During the nineteenth century, the British Empire continued to grow. At its greatest extent in 1922, the British Empire encompassed a quarter of the world's landmass and one fifth of the population. It became known as 'the empire on which the sun never sets'. Having begun its life as a trading empire, the British Empire increasingly sought to have political power over its territories. This caused two of the great crises of the British Empire: the Indian Mutiny in 1857 and the Boer War in 1899.

Enquiry Question

What countries were part of the British Empire? How did Britain rule her colonies? Why was the British Empire known as 'the empire on which the sun never set'?

Why was India such a precious colony for the British? Why were the Indian people dissatisfied with British rule? What started the Indian Mutiny? How was the Indian Mutiny dealt with by the British?

What did the British do in response to the Indian Mutiny? How was the British Raj different to the East India Company? Did the British do anything to ensure that India benefitted from Empire?

What parts of the African continent did the British come to control? Why were the British particularly interested in the land around the Suez Canal? Who was David Livingstone? What did he achieve?

Who were the Boers? Why did the Boer War start? Why is the Boer War seen as such a shameful episode in British history?

What were the worst aspects of the British Empire? Is there anything that colonies gained through being ruled by the British Empire? How would the world be different if the British Empire had not existed?

Key Vocabulary

New World	The New World is one of the names used for the majority of Earth's Western Hemisphere, specifically the Americas (including nearby islands), and Oceania.
colony	a group of people of one nationality or race living in a foreign place.
empire	an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state.
trade	the action of buying and selling goods and services.
suttee	a former practice in India whereby a widow threw herself on to her husband's funeral pyre. a widow who committed sati.
missionaries	a person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country
sepoys	an Indian soldier serving under British or other European orders
mutiny	an open rebellion against the proper authorities, especially by soldiers or sailors against their officers.

Key events

Spread of the British Empire	During the nineteenth century, the British Empire grew at a rapid rate, and Britain was seen as the world's unrivalled superpower. By 1900, British rule stretched over one-quarter of the world's landmass, and governed one fifth of the world's population. The British Empire was known as 'the Empire on which the sun never set'.
The Indian Mutiny	British rule in India strengthened after the Battle of Plassey, but in 1857 the India soldiers employed by the British army rebelled. One of the major causes of the rebellion was the fact that British rule in India did not respect local customs and traditions. The Indian mutiny lasted for a year, and was inspired by the refusal of Indian troops to use ammunition packs sealed with animal fat.
The Indian Mutiny	After the Indian Mutiny, the British Raj was established to replace the East India Company. It tried to show greater respect for Indian customs. Indian customs were celebrated by the British Empire, and Indians were able to gain promotion into the higher ranks of the army and civil service in India. There was much investment in India's infrastructure, in particular the Indian railway.

The British Raj	The British Raj is a term of history. " Raj " is a word of Indian languages which means " rule ", so " British Raj " means rule by the British in India .
Empress	a woman who is a sovereign ruler of great power and rank, especially one ruling an empire. "Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress at Delhi in 1877"
Suez Canal	The Suez Canal is a sea-level waterway in Egypt, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through the Isthmus of Suez
scramble	
Cape of Good Hope	The Cape of Good Hope is a rocky headland on the Atlantic coast of the Cape Peninsula in South Africa.
Boer Transvaal	The Transvaal Colony was the name used to refer to the Transvaal region during the period of ... The Transvaal Boers political objectives was the restoration of self-rule in the colony and the political environment to be dominated by the Boer .
Orange Free State	The Orange Free State was an independent Boer sovereign republic in Southern Africa during the second half of the 19th century, which ceased to exist after it was defeated and surrendered to the British Empire at the end of the Second Boer War in 1902.

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The Scramble for Africa	During the 1870s, the European powers took a great interest in Africa. This period was known as the 'Scramble for Africa'. The British focused their attention on the northeast of Africa, around the Suez Canal, and the south of the continent, known as Cape Colony. One of the most famous individuals of the Victorian period was David Livingstone, an explorer who mapped out much of the African continent.
Remembering the British Empire	For all of the abuses of the British Empire, the nineteenth century did experience no large global wars. This is sometimes put down to the Pax Britannica (British Peace). Aspects of British culture were spread by the British Empire such as banking, legal systems, and industries. Most famously, the sports of rugby, cricket and football spread around the world. Many countries resented being ruled by the British, and they almost all gained independence during the 20th century.

Important Dates	
1857	The Indian Mutiny
1899	The Boer War
1757	Battle of Plassey
1857	the India soldiers employed by the British army rebelled
1870s	'Scramble for Africa'



Key People	
David Livingstone	(19 March 1813 – 1 May 1873) was a Scottish physician, Congregationalist, and pioneer Christian missionary with the London Missionary Society, an explorer in Africa, and one of the most popular British heroes of the late 19th-century Victorian era.

