

History: The British Empire

1. Context of the British Empire

Empire	A group of countries ruled over by a leader
Colony	A country ruled by another
Colonisation	The process of establishing control over other countries
Reasons for Britain gaining an Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical: Britain is an island with skilled sailors • Military: GB had invested in gunpowder technology, powerful navy • Economic: GB was the first industrialised nation, desire for overseas markets, GB used chartered companies (trade company not under government control) • Political: GB had a stable government

4. Australia: How did the Aborigines experience the Empire?

Aborigines	Indigenous people of Australia
Penal Colony	A colony where prisoners are sent as punishment
Transportation	Sending criminals to a prison colony as a punishment.
The Black War	Frontier war between settlers and Tasmanian aborigines
William Cuffey	A black campaigner who was sent to the Tasmanian Penal Colony

2. The Americas: How did Canada become part of the British Empire

Walter Raleigh	Explorer who founded the first British colony in the Americas
13 Colonies	The 13 original British colonies in America
First Nations	Native populations in what becomes known as Canada
Hudson Bay Trading company	Traded furs in North America from 1670
7 Years War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A global war between the British, Spanish and French • A large amount of fighting took place in the Americas

5. Africa: How did the 'scramble' change Africa?

Royal African Company	An English Trading company one of the founders was Charles II
Transatlantic slave trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trade in enslaved Africans • Britain was the main European country involved in the trade
Scramble for Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European countries competing for control of African territory • Occurred between 1800 - 1900
Cecil Rhodes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A businessman and politician who was heavily involved in the colonisation of southern Africa • Rhodesia (modern Zimbabwe) was named after him

3. India: What was the turning point in Britain's relationship with India?

British Raj	The period of British rule of India
East India Company	The main British trading company in India
Key Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Mutiny: Indian soldiers (sepoys) fought against British control of the army • Amritsar Massacre: Up to 1000 Indian civilians killed by the British Army • Rowlatts Act: Gave the British more power to treat the Indian people harshly.

6. What is the legacy of the British Empire?

Decolonisation	The process of colonies gaining independence
Legacy	The impact of the British Empire on the present day
English Exceptionalism	The belief that England and the English people are superior to all other nations

1584 Walter Raleigh founds the colony of Virginia in America

1757 East India Company takes control of Bengal

1770 The British 'claim' Australia

1783 The US win their independence

1802 Tasmanian genocide begins

1857 The Indian Mutiny

1858 The British government take direct control of India

1899 The British use concentration camps in the Boer War

1919 The Amritsar massacre

1947 India & Pakistan gain independence