

Knowledge Organiser – The British Empire



Summary

1.	By 1901, Britain ruled the largest empire the world had ever known. This included over 450 million and covered $\frac{1}{4}$ of the surface of the world.
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Key Events

2.	1586 Sir Walter Raleigh organised a small settlement in America named Virginia in honour of Elizabeth I.
3.	1620: The Mayflower ship set sail for America taking the first English colonisers called the Pilgrim Fathers.
4.	1756-63: The Seven Years War resulted in England winning Canada from the French.
5.	1770: Captain Cook claimed Australia for Britain. It became a penal colony.
6.	1775-83: Britain was defeated in the American War of Independence and lost its 13 American colonies. Remembered in America on 4 th July.
7.	1845: The Irish Potato Famine began.
8.	1876: Queen Victoria was declared Empress of India.
9.	1919 The Amritsar massacre. The British massacre peaceful protestors who wanted Indian independence.
10.	1921: Southern Ireland won its independence from Britain.
11.	1947: India gained independence from Britain's Empire
12.	1960's most of Britain's colonies become independent countries.

Key places

11. Australia	Used as a location for criminals. Criminals would be shipped to Australia, where they would be used as a workforce
12. Caribbean	Sugar, cocoa and coffee were all grown and taken to Britain.
13. Africa	Britain used the people as slaves and made a lot of money selling them at auctions. The Gold Coast was important because it held lots of gold, ivory and silver, which were traded for fortunes.
14. India	Provided spices, jewels and silks that were traded for money across the Empire. The Kohinoor jewel – one of the biggest diamonds ever found- belonged to an Indian prince and is now amongst the crown jewels.



Key Terms

15.	Empire	A group of countries, people or land ruled by one single country referred to as the "mother" country.
16.	Colony	A country that is part of an empire.
17.	Jewel in the crown	The largest and richest part of Britain's Empire
18.	Commonwealth	A group of countries that were once part of Britain's Empire
19.	Imperialism	The act of building an empire.
20.	Nationalism	Wanting your country to be the best or to be free from someone's empire
21.	Britannia	A female figure used to symbolise the British Empire
22.	East India Company	Trading company that gradually took control of India
23.	Famine	A shortage of food.
24.	The Raj	The period of British rule in India after 1857. From the Hindi word for reign.
25.	Mahatma Gandhi	A leader of the Indian independence movement.