

Year 6

History Knowledge Organiser

Topic:

Exploration & Empire: the age of exploration & the rise, fall and legacy of the British Empire

Links to other year groups:

Year 2 (Captain Cook), Year 5 (time lines; identifying consequences of events), Year 8 (British Empire), Year 9 (British values, human rights), Year 11 (Tudor exploration, Empire), Year 13 (age of exploration)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT (within the whole school narrative)



Key Vocabulary:

- Empire:** a group of countries ruled over by one nation/monarch
- colonisation:** when one nation takes control over another
- independence of a country:** freedom from the control/rule of another country
- age of exploration:** a period of time in the 1500s & 1600s when wealthy/royal Europeans financed sea voyages to find new trade routes, discover new resources & conquer other lands
- workhouse:** a place where poor Victorian people lived in very unpleasant conditions
- customs/culture:** a people's ideas, traditions & social behaviours
- legacy:** what is left behind
- exploration:** the discovery of something that was unknown
- motivation:** the reason for doing something
- historical artefact:** an interesting object from a particular time period

Significant People:

- Queen Victoria / Prince Albert**
- Charles Darwin** (proposed the idea of natural selection)
- Christopher Columbus** (first modern European to sail to the Americas)
- Robert Falcon Scott** (Antarctic explorer)
- James Cook** (first European to reach Australia)
- Thomas Barnardo** (Victorian benefactor)

Key Facts/Information:

The Age of Exploration (1500-1700s) was when Europeans sailed the oceans to find new trade routes and wealth/resources to colonise other places and to build Empires.

Rich and poor Victorians lived in very different conditions.

At its height, the British Empire covered almost a third of the globe. Queen Victoria was awarded the title 'Empress of India' in 1877. The Empire declined as countries demanded their independence from British rule and after the Second World War, when Britain could no longer afford to run it.

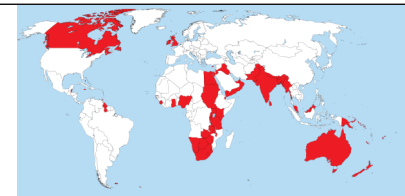
The Empire brought blood and suffering to millions, but it also brought railways, roads and education. Much of the world is the way it is today because of the Empire, from the way it looks, to the sports people play, from the religion we practise, to the language we speak. This is called **legacy**.

Timeline:

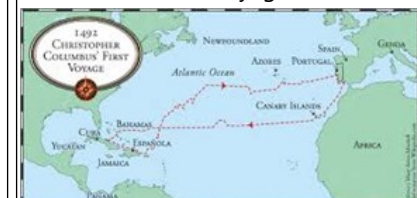
1492	Columbus discovered the Americas
1770	Cook discovered Australia
1937	Victoria ascended to the British throne
1859	Darwin published 'On the Origin of Species'
1901	Queen Victoria died
1969	Humans reach the moon

Maps:

The British Empire:



Columbus' 1492 voyage:



Various Victorian artefacts: flat iron, slate & chalk, first camera, stone hot water bottle, chamber pot, tin bath, carpet beater, perambulator (pram)

Lesson Sequence:

Week One: Which explorers do you know about? Timeline of exploration.

Week Two: Motivations for exploration and British Empire

Week Three: Life in Victorian Britain

Week Four: Compare the lives of children in Victorian Britain

Week Five: Historical artefacts from the Victorian era

Week Six: Victorian inventions

Week Seven/Eight: Scramble for Africa – what happened?

Week Nine: Decline of the British Empire—how did it end?

Week Ten: Was the empire good or bad? Debate preparation

Week Eleven: Class debate/year group debate