

Knowledge organiser: The British Empire

		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words	
		Year	Event	Word	Definition
Summarise your learning		1600	The East India Company is founded.	Empire	A group of states or countries ruled over by one monarch or government.
Topic 1: Origins of the British Empire	The British Empire began in America as Britain tried to imitate the success of Spain. Traders saw the value of goods in the Americas and so established colonies.	1607	Jamestown, England's first successful colony in the Americas, is founded.	Colony	An area of a country settled by, and under the control of, people from another country.
		1625	Barbados, England's first colony in the West Indies, is colonised.	Governor	Most British colonies had a governor who was responsible for ruling on behalf of the monarchy.
Topic 2: Extending and controlling the empire	Britain's role in the Caribbean began with plundering Spanish ships. It later became more organised and trade was controlled via the Royal Navy, monopolies and Navigation Acts.	1757	Britain gains control of Bengal in the Seven Years War.	Privateer	A naval captain who has permission to attack the ships of another country.
		1783	The United States of America gain their independence from Britain.	Joint-stock company	A company where a group of investors pool their money together.
Topic 3: 18th-century gains and losses	The Seven Years War resulted in significant gains for the British Empire. As Britain gained more trade, the empire grew further. The United States fought for and gained their independence.	1947	India gains its independence from Britain.	Monopoly	When one company or person has the sole right to trade a particular good.
		Who were these people/groups?		Navigation Act	A law introduced to prevent British colonists and traders from trading with other nations.
Topic 4: British expansion in India	The Mughal Empire went into decline. The East India Company took advantage of this decline and gradually gained power in India.	Walter Raleigh	Elizabethan explorer who claimed land for England in the New World.		
		The Virginia Company	A joint-stock company that financed and organised the earliest British colonies in the Americas.		
Topic 5: The impact of British rule in India	British rule had a major impact on India, positive in some ways, but negative in many others. Historians still debate whether British rule was a good or bad thing.	The Pilgrim Fathers	British settlers who colonised New England. They were fleeing religious persecution in England.	Puppet ruler	An official ruler who has little political power because they are controlled by someone else.
		The East India Company (EIC)	A joint-stock company that became the most powerful company in the world, ruling much of India.	Mutiny	A revolt by the military.
Topic 6: Resistance to British rule	In 1857, there was a major rebellion against British rule in India.	Robert Clive	A general for the EIC who, by defeating the Nawab of Bengal, started British rule in India.	Annexed	Territory taken over without the owner's permission.
		Earl of Dalhousie	The EIC Governor of India whose actions (doctrine of lapse and Anglo-Sikh Wars) partly caused the Indian Rebellion.		