

**The British Empire** was, at one time, the largest Empire in the world. It had colonies on every continent and contained a vast network of trade, resources, peoples and cultures. The British Empire comprised Britain, the 'mother country', and the colonies, countries ruled to some degree by and from Britain.

Key Words/ people	Causes of British Expansion		Methods of British Expansion	
<p><b>Empire-</b> a group of states or countries ruled by a single government</p> <p><b>Colony-</b> A state or country that is part of an empire</p> <p><b>Revolt-</b> An uprising against a ruling class or government.</p> <p><b>Political-</b> Something relating to politics or government.</p> <p><b>Economic-</b> Something relating to trade, industry, and money.</p> <p><b>Military-</b> Something relating to the armed forces and their use.</p> <p><b>Harriet Tubman:</b> An African American who escaped from slavery and then helped others to escape</p> <p><b>William Wilberforce:</b> British member of Parliament who was a leading voice in the move to ban slavery</p> <p><b>Sepoys</b> A group of Indian Soldiers who were part of the British Army.</p>	<p><b>Raw Materials-</b> Many colonies were rich in expensive raw materials including: silk, spices, ores, and precious metals.</p> <p><b>Trade-</b> A large empire gave Britain the chance to trade manufactured goods, like cloth and pottery, with other nations.</p> <p><b>Culture-</b> Some thought it was the responsibility of Britain to spread their political and cultural ideas i.e. spreading Christianity.</p> <p><b>Competition-</b> Other European nations were also looking to expand their empire; Britain did not want another nation to be stronger than them.</p>		<p><b>Political-</b> In some cases Britain used treaties and political agreements to take over their colonies. One example of this is in New Zealand, though this was very unfair to the indigenous Maori population. Another example is a trade done with the Dutch in order to gain New York.</p> <p><b>Economic-</b> In some cases economic methods were used to take control of areas. The best example of this is Egypt, where Britain took control of the country’s banks and used this to control the government of Egypt. The merchant companies like the East India Company are also linked to this idea.</p> <p><b>Military-</b> In many cases Britain used military force to take control of colonies. One examples of this is Sri Lanka, which was brought under British control using two military campaigns. The British military also played a large role in keeping control of many colonies including Ireland and India.</p>	
	Key Events			
	<p>1497- John Cabot, a first British explorer is sent out to discover a route to asia via the Atlantic; he makes it to Canada.</p> <p>1552- An expedition brings sugar and molasses back from Guinea</p> <p>1562- The first British sea captains began their involvement in the Transatlantic Slave trade.</p> <p>1600- The East India Company is founded</p> <p>1607- The first successful American colony is founded at Jamestown. This was followed in 1620 when the Mayflower settlers arrived at Plymouth Rock in America.</p> <p>1633- An English trading port is set up in Bengal, India.</p> <p>1666- By this time most British colonies in the Caribbean had been established.</p> <p>1770- Captain Cool claims Australia for Britain.</p> <p>1775-1783- American War of independence.</p> <p>1787- William Wilberforce begins to campaign for the abolition of slavery.</p>			
The Slave Trade	Abolition		Positives of Empire	Negatives of Empire
<p>-Slavery was not unique to the 18<sup>th</sup> century but became a global trade on a massive scale during this time.</p> <p>-Most slaves were captured in West Africa before facing the infamous “middle passage”, arriving in --America only to be sold at auction.</p> <p>-Slaves were used to farm crops like <b>Cotton, tobacco and sugar</b>. They were treated cruelly, often facing punishments like being whipped or wearing an iron collar.</p> <p>-Many slaves would <b>resist</b> by working slowly, breaking tools or trying to fight back against their new masters.</p> <p>-Famous uprisings happened in Haiti and Jamaica, there was also resistance by the underground railway and people like Harriet Tubman.</p>	<p>The trading of slaves was <b>abolished</b> in the British Empire in 1833.</p> <p>This followed a long and very public campaign that included people like the MP William Wilberforce, as well as some ex-enslaved people.</p> <p>The end of slave trading by Britain did not end slavery, those already on plantations in places like the USA continued to be enslaved.</p> <p>It wasn’t until after the American Civil War of 1861-1865 that Slavery was abolished in the USA.</p> <p>There is much debate around the legacy of the slave trade and the impact it continues to have to this day.</p>		<p><b>Trade-</b> global trade was encouraged and has become a key part of the modern world. People across the British Empire could access new goods.</p> <p><b>Infrastructure-</b> The British invested in railways, schools, administrative buildings and other parts of infrastructure that were key to modern life.</p> <p><b>Democracy-</b> The idea of democracy and voting was spread across the empire. Many ex-colonies became independent democracies when they gained independence.</p> <p><b>Sport-</b> One of the most enduring legacies is that of sport. Cricket, Rugby and football all spread throughout the empire and were successfully adopted by many colonies.</p>	<p><b>Exploitation-</b> The natural resources of colonies were often exploited by Britain. So too was the labour and work of the people. Britain often left poverty and conflict in its wake.</p> <p><b>Culture-</b> Britain often forced their culture onto their colonies, including making people convert to Christianity. Many indigenous cultures were damaged as a result.</p> <p><b>Racism-</b> Many indigenous people experienced this, the British saw themselves as superior and so treated the native people badly.</p> <p><b>Inequality-</b> Local people were often limited in terms of jobs they could have, their role in the governing of their own country, and their ability to better themselves.</p>