

Knowledge organiser: The British Empire

		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words	
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: What were the 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.	Imperialism	Extending a country's power and influence through colonization, use of military force, or other means.
Topic 2: Who were the British Empire builders?		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.	Independence	Being free of control from another country.
Topic 3: How did a pirate of the Caribbean develop 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.	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?		Aborigine	The native and original inhabitants of Australia.
Topic 4: Why did the USA leave the Empire		Sir Walter Raleigh	Elizabethan explorer who claimed land for England in the New World.		
		John Cabot	Italian explorer who discovered the coast of North America in 1497.	Penal	Punishing somebody using the legal system.
Topic 5: How far did British rule impact 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.	Subcontinent	A large landmass smaller than a continent.
		The East India Company (EIC)	A joint-stock company that became the most powerful company in the world, ruling much of India.	Mughal	A Muslim dynasty that ruled most of northern India from the early 16 th to the 18 th century.
Topic 6: What was the impact of the 'Scramble for Africa'		Robert Clive	A general for the EIC who, by defeating the Nawab of Bengal, started British rule in India.	Scramble for Africa	The race for different empires to control different parts of the African continent.
		Cecil Rhodes	A British imperialist who gained control of huge areas of Africa.		

