

Year 8 Term 3: How did the British Empire develop?



Key dates

1497	John Cabot, an Italian explorer sponsored by England, lands in Newfoundland.
1612	The English East India Company establishes its first base in India at Surat.
1655	England seizes Jamaica from Spain, marking its expansion into the Caribbean.
1763	The Treaty of Paris ends the Seven Years' War, leading to British dominance in North America and India.
1776	American colonies declare independence from Britain, leading to the American Revolutionary War.
1788	The First Fleet arrives in Australia, marking the start of British penal colonies there.
1839-1842	The First Opium War results in Britain's victory over China, leading to the cession of Hong Kong.
1857-1858	The Indian Rebellion leads to the British Crown taking direct control over India from the East India Company.
1884-1885	The Berlin Conference carves up Africa among European powers, marking the start of the "Scramble for Africa".
1947	India and Pakistan gain independence from British rule, marking the start of the decolonisation period.
1997	Hong Kong is handed back to China, marking the end of the British Empire.

Key people

Queen Victoria	Queen during the peak of the British Empire, ruling from 1837-1901. Known as the Victorian Era.
Robert Clive	Commander-in-Chief of British India. Key figure in the establishment of British rule in India.
Cecil Rhodes	British businessman, mining magnate, and politician in South Africa. Founder of Rhodesia.
Captain James Cook	British explorer, navigator, and cartographer who explored and mapped much of the Pacific.
Mahatma Gandhi	Leader of the Indian National Congress. Key figure in India's struggle for independence.

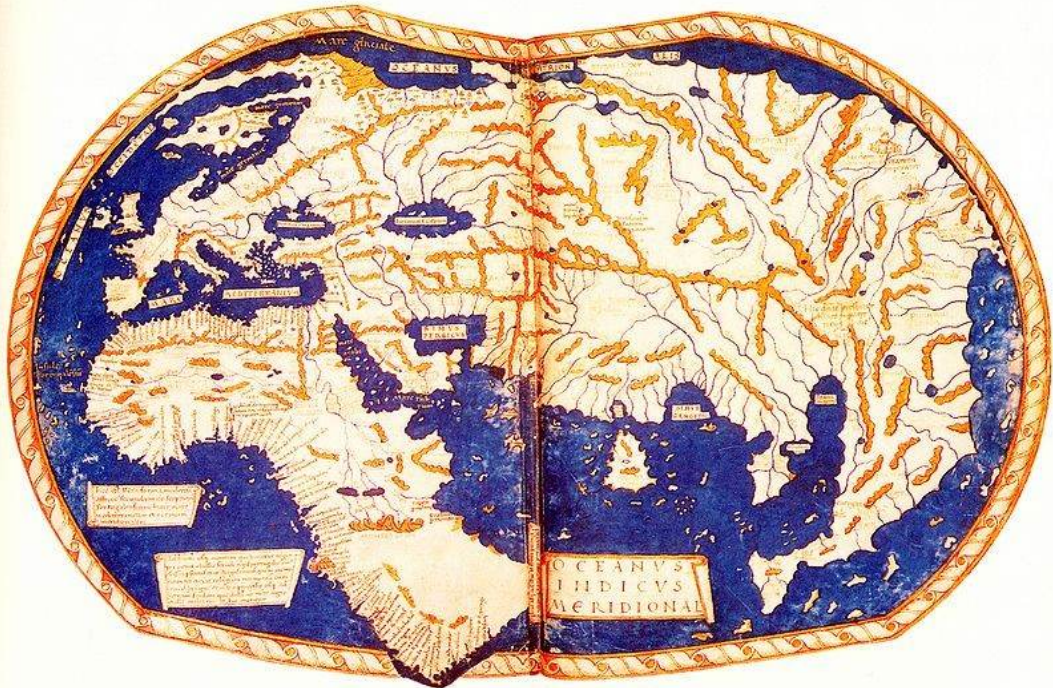
Key Tier 3 vocabulary

Empire	An extensive group of states or countries under a single supreme authority.
Colonisation	The action of settling among and establishing control over the native people of an area.
Annexation	The action of seizing something, especially territory.
Decolonisation	The action of changing from colonial to independent status.
Sovereignty	Supreme power or authority.
Imperialism	A policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonisation.
Commonwealth	An association of countries, most of which were former territories of the British Empire.
Protectorate	A state that is controlled and protected by another state.
Dominion	A semi-independent polity under the British Crown, constituting the British Empire and Commonwealth.
Nationalism	A political ideology that involves a strong identification of a group of individuals with a nation.
Missionaries	Individuals sent on a religious mission, especially one aiming to promote Christianity in a foreign country.
Indigenous	Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.
Exploitation	The action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work.
Infrastructure	The basic physical and organisational structures needed for the operation of a society.
Abolitionism	The movement to end slavery. This term is often used both for the historical movement ending Atlantic slave trade and for the modern-day movement.

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Prior knowledge required:	Provides building blocks for:
• Previous examples of empires • Renaissance • Tudor exploration	• Transatlantic Slave Trade • Industrial Revolution • Empire in WW1 and WW2 • Indian independence



Martellus world map, c1490

What cross-curricular links can you make with this big picture enquiry question?

Key knowledge		
Tudor exploration- Gilbert, Raleigh in America Trade, wars, new crops		
Map- British Empire at its peak. Empire plate What do historians need to do to fill in between start and peak to see how developed?		
India: History, culture, why European nations took interest in it		
Growth of East India Company; trade, Battle of Plassey		
1857 conflict- Sepoys; Indian mutiny/ war of independence Start of Raj		
Evaluating how/why interpretations differ around the impact of British control in India. Consider 'jewel in the crown' idea but analyse		
Australia- Settler colonialism Penal colony, impact on Aboriginal population,		
Scramble for Africa, Cecil Rhodes, Cape Town-Cairo train plans, King Khama III		
Key historical skills		
Cause/consequence	Similarity/difference	Change/continuity
Significance	Sources	Interpretations