



Section 3: Timeline of Britain's empire

1492	Christopher Columbus 'discovers' the West Indies
1496	Henry VII gave John Cabot the permission to find land.
1497	Cabot sailed to America and discovered Newfoundland.
1560s	British traders begin to buy and sell African slaves in America
1583	Humphrey Gilbert claimed Newfoundland to be owned by Britain.
1600	British first start trading in India.
1607	First successful British colony is started in North America.
1642	Sugar is first grown in the British colony of Barbados.
1655	The British defeat the Spanish and take Jamaica.
1665	The British seized a town called New Amsterdam from the Dutch and renamed it New York.
1710	The British take over much of Canada.
1757	Victories by Robert Clive drive out the French and established British control in India
1769	1769 Captain James Cook claims New Zealand
1857	Rebellion in India (Indian Mutiny). British government took over India from the East India Company.
1890	Cecil Rhodes and his trading company took over a large area of Central Africa on behalf of the British Empire and called it Rhodesia

Section 1: Key words

Abolition	When something is abolished or banned, like the slave trade in 1807
Britannia	female figure used to symbolise British Empire
Colony	Country that is part of an empire.
Commonwealth	A group of countries that were once part of Britain's Empire
Compensation	Money paid to make up for injury or damage
Conquest	One country takes over another
Democracy	Political system where people have the right to vote
East India Company	Trading company that took control of India
Empire	Group of countries, people or land ruled by one single country referred to as "mother" country.
Immigration	People moving to another country
Imperialism	The act of building an empire.
Legacy	What someone or something leave
Migration	Movement of people from one place to another
Nationalism	Wanting your country to be the best or to be free from someone's empire
The Raj	Period of British rule in India after 1857. From the Hindi word for reign.
Trade	System of exchange of goods
Windrush	Organised migration people from West Indies

To get valuable raw materials from the colonies that could be used in Britain's growing industry and to get exotic products that could then be sold to people in Britain. America and the West Indies were very important because of the growing of cotton, sugar and tobacco.

So Britain could sell goods to the colonies to make money. India, Africa and Australia were very important colonies for this reason.

Section 2: Why did Britain want an empire?



To compete with rival countries for power like France, Holland, Spain and Portugal. This is one of the reasons why places like New York, Canada and Gibraltar were taken over.



To spread Christianity around the world. This is one of the reasons why parts of Africa are taken over in the 1800s. Many indigenous people in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands also converted to Christianity,

1745



1901

