Subject: History   Topic: How did the British Empire change the world?   Year Group: 8

Beckfoot

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1. How was the British Empire unusual?

1	How did the British Empire start?	1. In the 16th Century, British explorers began to discover new places 2. They created colonies by sending people to live in these new places
2	How was the British Empire different from previous empires?	1. The British Empire was much bigger than other Empires in the past 2. It covered over 25% of the world's land mass by 1920 3. It was called the 'empire on which the sun never set' 4. This is because it covered lots of different parts of the world

2. How and why did the British gain and empire?

1	Why did the British want an Empire?	1. It allowed Britain to gain new resources to trade and created trade links 2. Britain benefitted from taking the resources back to Britain 3. Some people believed it was right to spread Christian and British ideas around the world 4. They wanted to compete with Spain to have the biggest Empire
2	How did the British create the Empire?	1. Private trading companies were set up in new countries and this gave the British control in those areas 2. In the 18th Century there was a big rise in population which meant people looked to move abroad 3. The Industrial Revolution meant that Britain had new technology to introduce to itself and other colonies

3. India and the British Empire

1	What was India like before the Empire?	1. Before the 1500s, India was divided into kingdoms 2. In the early 1500s the Mughals invaded India and united the Indian states 3. At first the Mughals were accepting of all the religions in India but later they became intolerant and fighting broke out
2	Who were the East India Company?	1. They were a trading company that started in 1600 2. It was given support by the monarch to trade and negotiate with people around the world 3. They aimed to trade with India and China for valuable resources
3	How did the British take control over India?	1. The East India company began to take more and more Indian land 2. They had an army and navy which they used against the Indian princes 3. At the Battle of Plessy, the East India Company won a big victory which allowed them to take control over the rest of India piece by piece
4	What was British rule like in India?	1. The British saw themselves as better than the Indian people 2. They didn't allow Indian people to have good jobs 3. The British took resources from the country including food. This led to famines that killed many people 4. They built lots of facilities like railways, factories and farms 5. They created a new legal system
5	What was the Sepoy rebellion?	1. In the 1850s, Sepoys were treated badly by the British army 2. In 1857, the army introduced new rifles with cartridges that used pig and beef fat as grease 3. The British ignored the objections to these cartridges and eventually a riot broke out 4. They were joined by local Indian leaders who were unhappy with British rule. 5. After 18 months of fighting, the British won and punished the rebels harshly
6	Did the rebellion change things?	1. The British government took control over India from the East India Company 2. They set up a new government with a viceroy in charge 3. They tried to interfere less with religious matters and started to let Indians have government jobs 4. However, by 1900, only 10% of the government jobs were held by Indians

Key Word	Definitions
Colonial	When a country increased it's power by taking control of other countries by force
Colonies	A country under the control of another country
Emigration	To move to another country permanently
Exploration	The action of exploring an unfamiliar area.
Exports	Send goods to another country for sale
Empire	A set of different countries or regions ruled by one 'mother country'
Imperialism	The belief that large empires make countries more powerful
Imports	Bring goods into a country from abroad for sale.
Mutiny	Refuse to obey the orders of a person in authority.
Natives	An original / local inhabitant
Patriotic	A love of your country or empire
Raw material	The basic material from which a product is made – this often grows naturally
Rebellions	A group rising up against those who control them
Trade	The action of buying and selling goods and services
Viceroy	A ruler exercising authority in a colony on behalf the monarch.
Voyages	A long journey involving travel by sea

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4. How did the British Empire affect China?

1	How and why did the British come to China?	1. Before the British arrived, China was ruled by different dynasties 2. From the 16th Century explorers and merchants travelled to China 3. In 1711, the East India Company set up its first trading post in China
2	What were the Opium Wars?	1. The British were unhappy with the limits on trade that the Chinese government put in place 2. Britain began smuggling opium into China to create a demand for their products. 3. This led to conflict and fighting with the Chinese government
3	What was the effect of the British in China?	1. The smuggling of opium into China left many Chinese people addicted to the drug 2. The Opium Wars weakened the Qing dynasty 3. In 1853 there was a rebellion against the Chinese government

5. How did the British Empire affect Australia?

1	How and why did the British settle in Australia?	1. In 1770, James Cook claimed the east coast of Australia for Britain 2. The British decided to create a penal colony to help the overcrowding of British prisons
2	How did the British affect Australia?	1. In 1788, 1,500 prisoners, crew, marines and civilians arrived in Sydney Cove 2. Over the next 10 years the indigenous population was reduced by 90% 3. The settlers introduced new diseases 4. The settlers took over Indigenous lands 5. There were violent conflicts between the colonisers and the indigenous people

6. How did colonialism affect Africa?

1	What was Africa like before Europeans arrived?	1. Before European colonisation, Africa had many strong and diverse Empires and cultures 2. Trade with northern Africa had existed since Roman times
2	How was Africa colonised by Europe?	1. Exploration meant many European countries travelled to new parts of Africa 2. The Portuguese first began to kidnap people from the west coast of Africa and to take those they enslaved back to Europe. 3. This was then copied by Britain and other countries to create the Transatlantic Slave Trade 4. Over the years 1884 to 1914 90% of Africa came under European colonial rule
3	What was it like to live in colonial Africa?	1. Colonists considered their culture superior 2. Colonial governments exploited many Africans and forced them to work harvesting natural resources 3. Colonial governments did not invest in the education of many Africans 4. There were often violent conflicts between the British and African groups

7. How did the British Empire affect Ireland?

1	Britain and Ireland before the 18th Century	1. The English first came to Ireland in the 12th Century 2. During the Tudor era, the monarchs took greater control over Ireland and encourage English Protestants to go live there
2	How did British rule in Ireland change?	1. After an Irish rebellion in 1798, Britain decided to change how Ireland was ruled 2. In 1801, Ireland and Britain were officially United to form the UK 3. Irish people could vote for members of parliament who would be equals with British MPS.
3	What was British rule like in Ireland?	1. The Irish were not treated equally, like they were promised 2. Between 1845 and 1850 there was a famine in which around 1 million people died 3. The British did not help this situation 4. Around 2 million Irish people were forced to migrate out of Ireland

9 Key word	Definition
Commonwealth	International group made up of the UK and countries that belonged to the British Empire.
Independence	When a country or group of people does not want to be controlled by another group or country
Indigenous	An original / local inhabitant
Penal colonies	Prison colonies where criminals were sent to live in as punishment e.g. Australia

8. How did the British Empire end?

1	Why did the British Empire end?	1. After WWI it became difficult for Britain to hold on to the Empire. 2. They could no longer afford an empire. 3. Britain had no right to rule people who did not want to be ruled. 4. Their navy was not strong enough to protect all the Empire anywhere in the world.
2	The British empire today	1. 14 countries still belong to the British empire 2. Examples include Gibraltar, Falkland Islands, Caribbean Islands and Channel Islands 3. Huge migration took place after WW2 giving us a Multi-cultural Britain
3	What is the common wealth?	1. A collection of 54 countries – all former members of the empire 2. The Queen is head of state in 16 of these countries 3. The Commonwealth games is competed every 4 years