Knowledge Organiser for Slavery & Empire

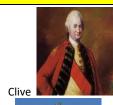
Overview

Up to this point you have learned the story of Britain and how our society, politics and religion developed during the medieval and early modern period. In this unit you will learn how Britain's influence spread abroad so that we became the most powerful nation on earth. We will explore what Africa was like before the arrival of the Europeans. You will also learn the inconvenient truth of the British Empire, that although it had its benefits to the world, it was also borne out of the evil of slavery and exploitation.

Key figures

















- What do we know about Africa before the Europeans arrived?

- Who was Mansa Musa?

Key questions

- What were the problems facing the English in trying to set up an empire?
- How important was the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the growth of the British Empire and why is this controversial?
- Why did Britain lose the American colonies?
- How significant was the role of William Wilberforce, compared to other factors, in the abolition of slavery in the British Empire?
- Why did Britain and France go to war?
- Why did Britain emerge as the dominant global empire?
- Was the British Empire a force for good or bad?

Timeline

~1312 Mansa Musa becomes ruler of Mali

1444 Atlantic slave trade is started by the Portuguese

1492 Columbus 'discovers' America

1577 Drake circles globe

1607 First successful British colony in America - Jamestown

1619 First African Slaves land in Virginia, America

1776 America declares itself independent from Britain

1776 – 1783 American Revolutionary War

1789 French Revolution

1805 Battle of Trafalgar

1807 Slave Trade abolished in British empire

1815 Battle of Waterloo

1833 Slavery abolished in Britain and colonies

Key words

Empire – A collection of countries / territories controlled by one ruler

Colony / colonist – Countries controlled by another and the people that live in them

Virginia – Britain's first successful colony (at Jamestown), named for Elizabeth I and James I

Middle class – Emerging social group between the upper and working classes

Plantation – Enormous farms in the Americas, worked by slaves

Slavery – The institution in which people are property of their masters

Trade – The buying and selling of goods

Slave Trade Triangle – The trade in goods and slaves between Europe, Africa (from where the slaves were kidnapped) and the Americas (where the slaves were put to work)

Profiteers – People who benefit financially from an institution like slavery

Tax – Money paid to the government

Economic - relating to money, goods and services

Abolish (abolition) – to get rid of something

Declaration of Independence – When American colonists said they wanted to be free of UK

Press-ganged – How men were kidnapped and forced into the navy

Broadside – the naval battle tactic of riding alongside enemy ships and attacking with cannon

Square / line formation – infantry formations for cavalry and infantry attacks

Foreign policy – the way a country approaches other countries

Revolution – when people overthrow their rulers