



Highsted Knowledge Organiser

Subject: History

Year 8 Term 5

What I need to know

The rise and fall of the British Empire

Key Vocabulary

Empire - group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch

Colony – the name given to the land owned/governed by another country

Student reference points

British Empire in India

- From 1858 onwards, the British government directly ruled India, and it became known as the British Raj.
- The British Raj had a significant impact on people living in India. Many Indians suffered from extreme poverty and famines during British rule.
- The British government and British individuals gained a lot of wealth from trade with India, which they used in part to fund the Industrial Revolution

British Empire in America

- Although religious beliefs provided the motivation for many settlers, others also saw the colonies as an opportunity to own their own land, work for themselves or find their fortune.
- From fish and furs to tobacco and timber, it seemed that great wealth could be made from securing exclusive mercantile access to these lands, which also traded closely with the sugar isles of the Caribbean.

Advantages of the British Empire

- Infrastructure - Britain gave its colonies better developments to the country, such as better roads and railways
- Language - Through the Empire, the English language spread, allowing people to communicate using one language
- Culture - The trade system allowed people to come to Britain, bringing their culture with them, making Britain's more diverse
- Democracy - Britain brought the idea of democracy to its colonies and helped them to build their own
- Commonwealth - The Commonwealth provided the old colonies with help and support after the Empire era
- Law and Order - The Empire brought their law system with them, improving the colonies' systems.
- education system with them, improving the children's education

Disadvantages of the British Empire

- Culture - British culture was forced on to the colonists, while the original culture was banned, ignored and forgotten
- Economies - The colonies' economy was falling because most of the profit of goods go back to Britain
- Soldiers - The colonies had to provide soldiers who fought and died for Britain. The soldiers wouldn't have had to fight and die without the Empire.
- Religion - The missionaries sent with the Empire forced Christianity to the colonists, stopping the practice of other religions
- Disease - The British brought with them new diseases to the faraway colonies, killing lots and lots of people as they are unused to it
- Theft - The Empire just took the land and resources from the colonies, leading to the near-extinction of many indigenous tribes, such as the Aborigines
- Slavery - African slaves were taken to America to be sold

Challenge question

- To what extent did being part of the British Empire benefit everyone?

Suggested reading

The Decline and Fall of the British Empire by Piers Brendon

Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India Shashi Tharoor

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z7kvf82/articles/zpjjv3j6>



Highsted Knowledge Organiser

Subject: History

Year 8 Term 6

What I need to know

The rise and fall of the British Empire

Key Vocabulary

Empire - group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch
Colony – the name given to the land owned/governed by another country

Student reference point

Advantages of the British Empire

- Infrastructure - Britain gave its colonies better developments to the country, such as better roads and railways
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Disadvantages of the British Empire

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Challenge question

To what extent did being part of the British Empire benefit everyone?

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History Department Standards
Year 8 Term 6

My current grade is:	
My Next Steps from Term 5 are:	

Topic	Standard			
	B	S	G	P
<i>End of year exam</i>	I demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of the question and the historical period it relates to. I make clear links between my knowledge and the question.	I demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of the question and the historical period it relates to. I make clear links between my knowledge and the question and am able to use some evidence to support my answer.	I demonstrate sound knowledge and understanding of the question and the historical period it relates to. I am able to use relevant and accurate evidence to support my answer.	I demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of the question and the historical period it relates to. I am able to use a wide range of relevant, accurate and well-selected evidence to support my answer.
<i>Benefits and drawbacks of the British Empire</i>	I can explain two different views of an event and attempt to make a judgment about which I agree with more. I support my explanation with some relevant and accurate detail.	I can explain two or more different views of an event and explain which I agree with more. I support my explanation with some relevant and accurate detail.	I am beginning to evaluate two different views of an event and reach a judgement about which is more persuasive based on my own knowledge of the period. This knowledge will be relevant.	I can evaluate two different views of an event and reach a conclusion about which is more persuasive based on my own knowledge of the period. This knowledge will be relevant and precise.

My strengths this term have been:	
My Next Steps in History are:	