

History Year 8 Spring Term 2 'Knowledge Organiser': Abolition and Empire.



Summary:

The British Empire was the largest empire in history and it relied heavily on slavery during the 1700s. The start of the 1800s saw an end to the trading of slaves before a complete ban. By 1922 it influenced over 20% of the world's population and covered almost a quarter of the earth's total land area. The phrase 'the empire on which the sun never sets' was used to describe the British Empire because of its coverage around the world.

Key terms

Arguments FOR Slavery at the time.	Slaves had good lives on the plantations. Africa was not a good place to live. Slaves were treated well on the Middle Passage. Some claimed the bible taught that slavery was justified. Slaves were converted to Christianity.
Arguments AGAINST Slavery at the time.	Slaves were not given enough food and half died before they arrived in America. Conditions on the ships were awful. The slaves have to lie in small spaces and are chained together. People in Ghana were well educated and had lots to trade, such as copper, making slavery unnecessary.
Victorian Interpretation	The British Empire was all positive and brought nothing but benefits to the people in the colonies.
Scramble for Africa	When European powers invaded Africa in order to colonise as much territory as they could.

Timeline:

1612	East India Company build a network of trading posts in India.
1750	Britain controlled 13 colonies on the Eastern coast of America
1756 - 63	7 year war. Britain gained control of Canada from France.
1770	Britain claimed Australia
1776	American Independence from British rule
1807	Slave trade is abolished in the British Empire
1808	USA ban the trading of slaves.
1833	Slavery Abolition Act ended ownership of slaves in the Empire.
1857	Rebellion in India: British Government take control of India from the East India Company.
1876	Queen Victoria 'Empress of India'
1881 - 1919	Scramble for Africa by European countries.

Key Words.

Abolish/Abolition	To stop something happening by making it illegal.
Aborigines	A person that has been in a country or region from the earliest times.
Annexed	A territory taken over without the owner's permission
Colony	A country that is part of an Empire
Commonwealth	Group of nations with a shared loyalty or government
Empire	Group of countries, people or land controlled and ruled by one single powerful country.
Exports	Selling or sending of goods to another country.
Imports	Bringing foreign goods into the country
Liberty	To be free
Missionary	Person sent on a religious mission, often to convert other people to Christianity.
Mutiny	To rebel, especially by soldiers or sailors.
Pilgrim Fathers	Puritan's who left England to settle in the 'New World' where they would be free to practice their religion.
Plunder	To steal goods by force.
Privateer	Naval Captain who has permission from their government to attack and rob the ships of another country.
Raj	Indian word meaning 'ruler'.
Rebellion	An organised and armed form of resistance to authority.

Key people.

Queen Victoria	Monarch of great Britain and the British Empire as it expanded across the world during the period of industrialisation.
Granville Sharp	A lawyer who campaigned to improve the position of slaves and former slaves in Britain. He campaigned to allow former slaves to settle in Sierra Leone, West Africa.
Olaudah Equiano	An ex-slave who moved to England and wrote a book about being a slave. Many people became aware of the reality of slavery as a result.
Thomas Clarkson	Founded 'The Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade'. He led the campaign to end slavery inspiring others to follow.
William Wilberforce	British MP who campaigned for the ending of slavery through Parliament.

Concept: Perspectives