

The British Empire- Year 3 Knowledge Organiser

Key facts

- An 'empire' is a group of countries ruled over by a single monarch or ruling power.
- The British Empire comprised Britain: the 'mother country'; and the colonies: countries ruled to some degree by and from Britain.
- The British Empire was the greatest empire the world has ever seen, and for more than a century Britain was the foremost global power, ruling over a quarter of the world's area and population.
- Lasted during 1497 – 1997.
- Included over 450 million people (more than a quarter of the world's population).
- Covered 36,000,000 square miles of territory (more than a quarter of the world's area).

Key vocabulary

Colony- a country or area under the full or partial political control of another country

Empire- an extensive group of states ruled over by a single monarch

Independence- freedom from the control of another country.

Imperialism- The policy of extending the rule or authority of an empire or nation over foreign countries, or of acquiring and holding colonies and dependencies.

Slavery- owning a person for the use of work

Key people

Sir Francis Drake (1540-1596)- An Elizabethan sailor and navigator.

Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)- Prime Minister of Britain in 1868 and 1874.

Mahatma Gandhi -A leader of the Indian independence movement.

Queen Victoria- Became Queen in 1837.