

Year 4 The British Empire Knowledge Organiser
What caused the British Empire to crumble?

★ Star Vocabulary ★




- Monarch**- king or queen
- Empire** – a group of countries ruled over by a single monarch or power.
- Britain** – the mother country of the British Empire.
- Colony** – countries ruled by or from Britain.
- Expedition** – a journey taken by a group of people for a particular reason.
- Slavery** – a person who is the property of another person.
- Trade** – buying, selling or exchanging something.
- British Raj** – a period of British rule over India.
- Commonwealth** - a group of countries which used to be part of the British Empire.
- Independence** – freedom from being run by another country.

Anglo-Saxons (Y3) – How has Britain changed since the Stone Age?

Kingdom of Benin (Y5) - Who had the greatest impact on today's world?

Key facts

- The British Empire was the biggest empire the world has ever seen.
- It began during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and lasted from 1497 – 1997.
- Over 450 million people (more than a quarter of the world's population) were a part of the British Empire.
- The British Empire covered 36,000,000 square miles of territory (more than a quarter of the world's area).
- The years 1815 to 1914 are referred to as Britain's imperial century.
- The Commonwealth Games began in the 20th Century within the British Empire.

The British Empire and Slavery

British sailors became involved in the trade in the 16th century, and the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) gave them the right to sell slaves in the Spanish Empire.

In the 18th century, it is estimated that 6 million Africans were taken to the Americas as slaves, at least a third of them in British ships. In England, a group of Black Britons called the 'Sons of Africa' started a letter-writing campaign against the slave trade.

In 1787, the Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was formed. William Wilberforce represented them in Parliament.

In 1807, after a huge campaign – the first mass public protest campaign in history – The British Parliament abolished the slave trade.

- Key Skills**
- Note connections, contrasts and trends - across time but also between places and cultures.
 - Select and use sources to construct their own opinions about the past.
 - Start to critique other people's opinions about the past.

