


# Y8 - Knowledge Organiser - Empire and Slavery - Was the British Empire a good thing?

## What do I need to know?

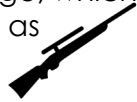
- Why did Britain want an Empire?
- Why and how did India come under British control and was British rule in India a good thing or a bad thing?
- What were the causes of the Indian Mutiny?

Key vocabulary	
<b>Colony</b>	A country that is controlled by another leading country.
<b>Sepoy</b>	An Indian soldier serving British authorities
<b>Mutiny</b>	A rebellion against authority usually by soldiers or sailors.
<b>Empire</b>	A collection of areas of land that are ruled over and controlled by one leading country.

Why did Britain want an empire?	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spreading Christianity</li> <li>• To civilise natives</li> <li>• To develop other societies in the British way</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect trade</li> <li>• To provide a market for British goods</li> <li>• To provide raw materials</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To make Britain stronger than other countries e.g. France</li> </ul>
<b>Military</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give Britain more soldiers for her army</li> </ul>

How and why did India come under British Control?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East India Company established <b>trading posts</b> in India in 1600.</li> <li>• India was a country of many smaller Kingdoms and was <b>not unified</b>.</li> <li>• There was lots of <b>competition between France and the United Kingdom</b> for control of India – this caused a war to break out.</li> <li>• The British agreed to help and support any ruler who would support them.</li> <li>• 1757, Robert Clive convinced a general to fight with him against the ruler of Bengal at the Battle of Plassey. They defeated the <b>Ruler of Bengal and Clive was celebrated as a hero in Great Britain</b>.</li> </ul>







Was British rule in India a positive or negative?	
Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Britain built <b>roads, canals and railways</b> in India</li> <li>• Britain invested in Indian farming including funding <b>large irrigation projects</b>.</li> <li>• Industrialization began, <b>providing millions of jobs</b>.</li> <li>• Communication improved as Britain created a <b>telegraph and postal system</b>.</li> <li>• India received <b>1/10 of British overseas investment</b> - £230 million.</li> <li>• The number of schools increased from <b>170 to 2,900</b>.</li> <li>• Land used for farming increased from <b>400,000 acres to 2.2 million acres</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India became <b>poorer</b></li> <li>• British settlers tried to make natives <b>change to Christianity</b></li> <li>• <b>The Salt Tax</b> was introduced to make money for the British which many Indians could not afford.</li> <li>• Too many Indians were growing <b>cash crops</b> (tea, cotton) for Britain and not enough staple foods needed to feed the population.</li> <li>• There were <b>24 famines</b> between 1850 and 1899 with 19 million dying from starvation and disease.</li> </ul>

What was the Indian Mutiny, 1857
<p><b>Causes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Disrespect of Indian values</b> – The British rulers forced many Indians to be Christians and tried to introduce new laws.</li> <li>• <b>Money</b> – The British took a lot of land away from the Indian peoples and charged them high taxes and rents. They also made Indian farmers grow 'cash crops' (tea, cotton) instead of food.</li> <li>• <b>The treatment of the Sepoys</b> – Many Sepoy soldiers were not given promotions and were paid less than their British counterparts</li> <li>• <b>The introduction of the Lee Enfield Rifle</b> – Loading it involved biting the end off the cartridge, which was lubricated with beef and pork fat. Hindus saw cows as sacred, and Muslims saw pigs as unclean. Soldiers refused to use the rifle.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Consequences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Violence</b> – Indian rebels murders hundreds of British men, women and children. The British then took revenge, murdering innocent civilians.</li> <li>• <b>Government response</b> – The East India Company could no longer be trusted in India, in 1858 the British parliament introduced British Rule in India called the British Raj</li> </ul>

# Y8 - Knowledge Organiser - Empire and Slavery - What was Britain's role in the slave trade?

## What do I need to know?

- What was the slave trade?
- What was Britain's role in the Slave Trade?

Key word	Definition	What was the slave trade?	
<b>Abolition</b> 	The action of ending a system of practice, often used to mean the end of slavery	Britian and Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of industry was starting to appear in Europe at this time. <b>Places like cotton mills were becoming extremely profitable.</b></li> <li>• As there were people gaining <b>large amounts of wealth, they spent this money on luxury items such as sugar and tobacco.</b> These things were hard to grown in Britian.</li> <li>• Many people saw an opportunity to <b>make a profits from providing goods</b> such as cotton, tobacco and sugar.</li> <li>• <b>Raw products arrived from the Americas and turned into finished products such as guns, cooking pots and clothes would then be taken to Africa to be traded.</b></li> </ul> 
<b>Plantation</b> 	A large farm where one crop is grown, e.g. sugar, rice, cotton	Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By European standards, <b>large parts of Africa were still 'underdeveloped'</b>. Many people within Britain believed that Africans should be shown how to live 'correctly'.</li> <li>• Also, many Europeans had <b>racist views around black people</b> and believed they were 'beneath' them in social hierarchy.</li> <li>• They believed it was right to forcibly capture and traffic African to be used as a <b>slave labour force in the production of goods such as cotton, tobacco, and sugar.</b> This became known as the '<b>middle passage</b>'</li> <li>• <b>Finished products would be sold or swapped for African people. Enslaved African people would then be transported to the Americas.</b></li> </ul> 
<b>Transatlantic slave trade</b> 	The system of transporting slaves from Africa to the Americas	North and South America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The climate in South America, the Caribbean and the southern states of America was <b>perfect for growing crops such as cotton, tobacco and sugar.</b></li> <li>• Many people owned large amounts of land and <b>built large plantations</b> where raw products could be farmed.</li> <li>• <b>Raw products would be sold or swapped for enslaved Africans. These would then be transported to Britian and turned into finished products.</b></li> </ul> 
<b>Migration</b>	The movement of people		
<b>Resistance</b>	Fighting back, either physically or otherwise		

## What was Britian role in the slave trade?

- Slave traders like **John Hawkins** captured slaves and sold them.
- **Coffee shop owners demanded the sugar** that was grown by slaves on plantations.
- Charles II was a partner in the **Royal African Company** – responsible for capturing and selling enslaved people
- Liverpool – **half of its trade was linked to slavery.**
- **Banks provided the money** needed to buy slave ships (Barclays was started by slave traders)



# Y8 - Knowledge Organiser - Empire and Slavery - What was the experience of slavery for Africans?

## What do I need to know?

- What was life like in Africa before the arrival of Europeans?
- What did enslaved people experience when they were captured?
- What did enslaved people experience when they arrived in the Americas?
- Why was the slavery abolished?

## What was life like in Africa before the arrival of Europeans?

- Africa is a **diverse continent**, with a range of rich cultures and backgrounds.
- Many **Europeans had incorrect stereotypes of Africans**, and believed they were uncultured and 'heathens'.
- There were **many Kingdoms, City-states** and other political arrangements in Africa.
- **Many African countries were massively rich**, for example the kingdom of Benin.

## What did enslaved people experience when they were captured?

- White slave captures from Europe would **come to West Africa to capture enslaved people**.
- They would sometimes **employ or threaten with capture other African people to help enslave Africans**.
- When captured, enslaved Africans would be **physically abused, often whipped and beaten, put in manacles** and taken to the coast to board a ship.
- They would be **stowed on ships** – either tight packed or loose packed – and transported across the **middle passage**. This journey could take 6 months, and many enslaved people would get sick or try to starve themselves. Around 10–15% of enslaved people died on the middle passage. **During their time on the middle passage, they would remain chained together, only going on deck to be cleaned with salt water or made to dance for exercise**. They would be whipped and beaten if they tried to resist. They would be given food in the form of rice and beans that was boiled and mashed together.

## What did enslaved people experience when they arrived in the Americas?

- After they had arrived, they would be **cleaned, and wounds sealed or hidden with tar**. Then many enslaved people would be **sold either in an auction or a scramble**. Families would be split up and sold. Strong men would sell for more as they could carry out more manual labour. Women would be brought to do domestic work within the plantation house.
- Many enslaved people would then go to **work on a plantation where they would have to do manual labour for many hours a day**. During this time, they would be severely mistreated through verbal and physical abuse. The overseers would keep watch on the enslaved people, and they would usually work from sunrise to sunset, with very few breaks.
- Many enslaved people resisted their enslavement **through active and passive means**. They would kill livestock and try to escape, or they would work slowly. Famously in Haiti from 1791 – 1804 there was a slave revolution led by Toussaint L'Ouverture.

## Why was the Slave trade Abolished?

- Some slave owners **realised that they would not have the costs of housing and feeding their slaves if they were free**. Instead, they could just pay them a low wage for their work. Plantation owners could save money if slavery was abolished.
- Due to **religious reasons** politicians in the UK, such as **William Wilberforce**, spent 20 years trying to abolish slavery and believed God would not want people to treat each other in such a way.
- The British Government was **tired of sending British troops all the way to the Caribbean to crush slave revolts**. Many British soldiers died of disease in the hot, damp climate in Jamaica to protect white plantation owners.
- Some people realised that the **slave trade was cruel and led to the deaths of thousands of Africans** in terrible conditions on the Middle Passage. They believed it was unchristian to treat other human beings in this way.
- Many freed slaves had fought with the British army and navy in the wars against the French in the 1800s. Their fighting skills won admiration from white soldiers. **There was pressure on the Government to end slavery and gain the loyalty of African Americans in the Caribbean**.