

# Y8 Knowledge Organiser - Term 4 - The British Empire



Overall enquiry question: 'Britain Owes Reparations to Her Former Colonies'. How far do you agree?

<p>Enquiry 1 (overview): <i>Why did Britain build an Empire?</i></p>	<p>Enquiry 2 (Australia): <i>What was the impact of colonisation on the Aboriginal population of Australia?</i></p>	<p>Enquiry 3 (India): <i>Why does it matter what we call the Indian Rebellion of 1857?</i></p>	<p>Enquiry 4 (The Scramble for Africa): <i>Why are statues of Cecil Rhodes coming down?</i></p>
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Map of the British Empire



# Y8 Key Words - Term 4 - The British Empire



Term	Definition
<b>Aboriginal</b> [Ab-or-idge-in-al]	Someone who inhabited (lived in) a land before the arrival of colonists.
<b>Act</b> [Act]	A law that has been voted on and agreed on by Parliament, then given Royal Assent.
<b>Anglicise</b> [Ang-li-size]	The process by which something or someone (usually a word) is made more English. Usually applied to language or culture.
<b>Annexation</b> [An-nex-a-tion]	Taking over and adding territory to the rule of a country.
<b>Caste system</b> [Cast]	The class structure in Hindu society based on ritual purity and social status; it is hereditary (determined by birth). An 'outcaste' has therefore been ejected from their Hindu caste for violation of its customs / rules.
<b>Civilising</b> [Siv-il-ize-ing]	The British belief that they were improving the daily life and culture of indigenous (native, original) people by ruling them.
<b>Colonies</b> [col-on-ees]	Countries within an empire, that are ruled by another country
<b>Colonise</b> [col-on-ize]	To send settlers to a place and establish control over it.
<b>Commonwealth</b> [Com-on-wealth]	An international organisation consisting of Britain's ex-colonies (with the exception of the USA). Britain is also a member.
<b>Culture</b> [Cult-chur]	The beliefs, values, attitudes, shared by a group of people living in a community/country.
<b>Custom</b> [Cus-tom]	A traditional and widely accepted way of behaving or doing something that is specific to a particular society, place, or time.
<b>Doctrine of Lapse</b> [Doc-trin of Lapss]	Policy of the East India Company where they annexed (took over) Indian land if its Prince died with no direct heir.
<b>Duties</b> [Due-tees]	A kind of tax levied by a state. Tax is charged on individuals, wealth, services and sales, whereas duties are charged on goods.
<b>East India Company (EIC)</b>	Company that controlled India on behalf of the British government from 1773 until 1843. It had its own private army.
<b>Empire</b> [Emp-eye-a]	A group of countries or colonies that have been conquered and are ruled by a foreign power.
<b>Evangelical</b> [Eev-van-gel-ick-cal]	A strict Protestant who seeks to convert others to the Christian faith, through public preaching and missionary work.
<b>Immigrant</b> [Im-mig-grant]	People who move into a country
<b>Imperialism</b> [Imp-peer-ree-al]	The economic and political control of other countries
<b>Independence</b> [Ind-di-pend-ance]	Eventually colonies demanded this, also known as "self-rule"; i.e. free from interference by other countries.
<b>Indigenous</b> [Ind-dig-gin-ous]	Originating from a particular place; native
<b>Inferior</b> [In-fear-ee-or]	Lower than others; opposite of superior
<b>Lee Enfield Rifle</b>	A rifle used throughout the British Empire in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century. The end of the cartridge had to be bitten off and lubricated, then loaded into the barrel of the gun.
<b>Missionaries</b> [Mish-tion-air-ees]	Christians who believed it was their God-given duty to travel to British colonies and convert the native people to Christianity.

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<b>Monopoly</b> [mon-op-pol-ee]	Control over a certain trade in a certain area. E.g. the EIC had a monopoly over trade in India.
<b>Mughal</b> [Moo-gal]	A member of the Muslim dynasty and empire which ruled much of India from 1500. The collapse of the Mughal Empire from the 1700s created a power vacuum, filled by the EIC.
<b>Mutiny</b> [Mew-tin-ee]	An open rebellion (and refusal to obey) against authorities, especially by soldiers or sailors against their officers.
<b>Native</b> [Nate-tiv]	Someone who inhabited (lived in) a land before the arrival of colonists.
<b>Nomadic</b> [No-mad-ick]	A way of life; moving from place to place
<b>Outcast</b> [Out-cast]	'Out of caste'; person who has been rejected by their society or social group. An 'outcaste' is someone who has been ejected from their Hindu caste for violation of its customs / rules.
<b>Orientalism</b> [Ore-ree-ent-tal-ism]	Style, artefacts, or traits considered characteristic of the peoples and cultures of Asia.
<b>Parliament</b> [Parl-lee-a-ment]	The group of people who discuss and make laws
<b>Penal</b> [Pee-nal]	Relating to, used for, or prescribing the punishment of offenders under the legal system.
<b>Princely state</b> [Prince-lee]	Divisions of the Indian subcontinent ruled by local rulers (Princes), either Muslim or Hindu.
<b>Queen Victoria</b>	British monarch from 1837-1901 who presided over expansion of the British Empire
<b>Raj</b> [Raaj]	Indian for 'rule' or 'government'; British sovereignty in India.
<b>Rebellion</b> [Reb-bel-lee-on]	Where a group of people rise up against their ruler(s).
<b>Reparations</b> [Rep-par-a-tions]	Compensation; money to make up for wrongdoing in the past (often paid after war)
<b>Sepoy</b> [See-poy]	Indian soldier trained and employed by the East India Company
<b>Social Darwinism</b> [So-shal Dar-win-ism]	Racist misunderstanding of Darwin's theory of evolution, that some races are more 'evolved' than others. This is a racism. It was believed by Europeans in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>Superior</b> [Soup-ear-ree-a]	Opposite of inferior; belief that some are more important/higher in status than others.
<b>Suttee/Sati</b> [Sut-tee]	Sati; Hindu tradition of self-immolation (burning alive) by widows, representing the sanctity of the marriage bond.
<b>Thagi</b> [Thug-ee]	Thugi / Thuggee; those who practised highway robbery and ritual murder in the service of the Hindu goddess Kali. Victims were released into their next life. 'Thug' used in Britain.
<b>Trade</b> [Trade]	Buying and selling goods.
<b>Transportation</b> [Trans-port-a-tion]	The shipping of criminals from Britain to Australia, where they worked as slave labour for a specified time.
<b>Westernisation</b> [West-ster-n-ize-za-tion]	Assimilation of/absorbing Western culture; the social process of becoming familiar with or converting to the customs and practices of Western civilization.
<b>'The White Man's Burden'</b>	Originally a poem by Rudyard Kipling but symbolised the European racism and their justification for building empires, especially during the 'Scramble for Africa'