Year 8 History: The British Empire & its impact on the world 1492 to the present

Autumn Term

Britain, its Empire and the world, 1492 to 1700

- The world powers of the 15th century. Empires: Songhai, Aztec, Ming and Ottoman
- Why and how did Europeans start to explore the world during the 15th century?
- How did Britain become more connected across the world?
- Elizabethan England and the Islamic World.
- Key explorers: Magellan, da Gama, Drake, Hawkins, Diego the Circumnavigator

Britain and the slave trade 1562-1865

- ❖ What was the African experience in Tudor England?
- * How did the slave trade start in West Africa and how did the British become involved?
- Who were the Caribbean freedom fighters?
- What was the experience of free and enslaved people living in Britain?
- The abolition movement
- How did Britain continue to benefit from slavery after abolition?

Spring Term

The British Empire across the world 1600 to 1900

- What was the East India Company and how did it take over from the Mughals?
- What happened in 1857 & was it a mutiny or war of independence?
- What was the British Raj and what was life like for Indians?



What was the Scramble for Africa and how did it impact the continent?

The British Empire after 1900

- What is the difference between dominions and colonies?
- How did World War I impact the British Empire?
- The campaigns for independence.
- How and why did World War II contribute to the end of the Empire?



Summer Term

The End of the British Empire and its legacy

- ❖ How and why did India become independent in 1947?
- ❖ What is decolonisation and how did it happen?
- ❖ How did the British Empire end?
- ❖ What is the legacy of Empire for the rest of the world?
- ❖ How has Britain's place in the world changed since the fall of the empire?

Suggested reading available in the History Library:

Black and British: A short, essential history-David Olusoga, Blade and Bone- Catherine Johnson Divers Daughter: A Tudor Diver's Daughter -Patrice Lawrence, The Austen Girls- Lucy Worsley The White Phoenix- Katherine Kendall, The Girl From Everywhere- Heidi Heilig, The House on Hummingbird Island- Sam Angus, Crow Mountain- Lucy Inglis

