

# Year 5 Merlins

## History

### Autumn 2

## The Birth of the British Empire.



### The British Empire

At its largest, it covered 13 million miles or about 25% of the world. It controlled over 450 million people, which was around 20% of the world's population.

#### Controlling the Empire

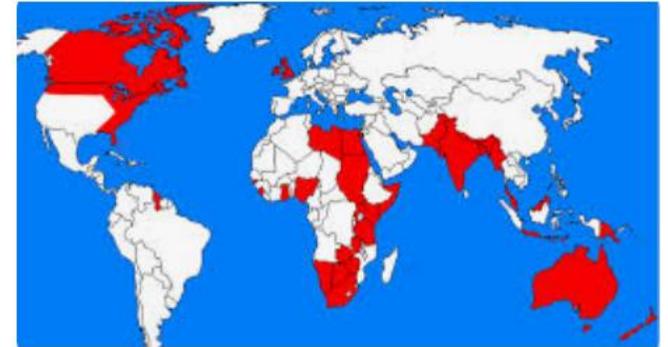
**Military Force** – Britain invented and developed new weapons, and they stopped guns coming into the hands of those in the Empire.

**Use of Locals** – The British went on a 'charm' offensive, making the local rich people feel wanted whilst giving them more money and power. Local people ran the police, law courts and prisons, making them feel in charge of their country and less likely to break laws.

**Communication** – The British could easily communicate between the countries of their empire using methods such as telegraphs, radios and ships.

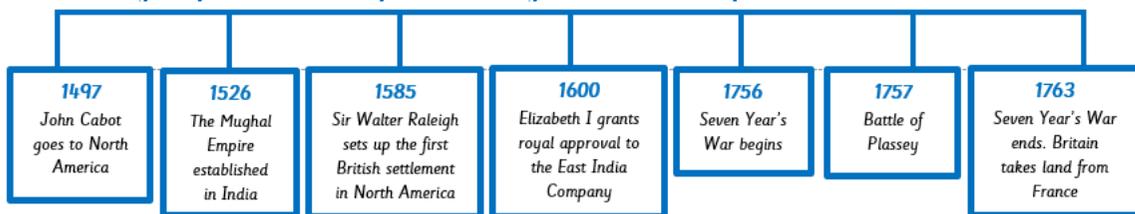
**Gradual Change** – The British didn't try to change everything at once, they gradually changed and developed areas of countries.

**Dealing with Resistance** – The British were efficient in stopping anyone who opposed the Empire. Protestors were immediately jailed, and they also broke up local armies.



| Key Vocabulary     | Definition   |
|--------------------|--|
| artillery          | Large guns and weapons used in warfare on land.  |
| chronology         | The arrangement of events in time order.   |
| colony             | A country under full or partial political control of another country and occupied by settlers from that country. |
| East India Company | English (later British) trading company founded in 1600, dissolved 1874.   |
| empire             | A large group of countries ruled over by a single monarch.   |
| globalisation      | Businesses begin to influence or trade goods or services internationally.  |
| governor           | Head of government in a colony.  |
| imperial           | Something which belongs to an empire or the monarch who rules it.  |
| international      | Involving more than one country or nation.   |
| merchant           | A person involved in trading, particularly with other countries.   |
| monarch            | Usually a king, queen, or emperor.   |
| patriotism         | Devotion, dedication and vigorous support of one's own country.  |
| settlers           | A group of people who move from one country and settle in another.   |
| slavery            | Owning of people. Slaves were usually treated badly, working in harsh conditions.                                |
| subjects           | People who belong to a country.  |
| trade              | Buying and selling goods and services.   |
| treaty             | A formal agreement between countries or states.  |
| Whig historian     | Historians who viewed the past as a march towards a better future.   |

### Timeline of key events during the birth of the British Empire



### Key people:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>John Cabot</b>                 | An Italian explorer, funded by England, who 'discovered' lands in North America.    |
| <b>Sir Walter Raleigh</b>         | Founded a colony in Virginia.   |
| <b>Emperor Jahangir</b>           | Mughal Emperor who allowed the East India Company to trade in India.                |
| <b>Major-General Robert Clive</b> | A military commander who helped secure an Indian empire for Britain.                |
| <b>General Wolfe</b>              | Led Britain to victory at the Battle of Quebec.                                     |
| <b>Elisabeth I</b>                | Queen of England from 1508-1603. She gave royal approval to the East India Company. |