

The British Empire : History : Year 3/4

	Learning Objective	Overview	Assessment Questions	Resources
Lesson 1	To understand when, how and why Britain's 'first' empire was established in the Americas and Africa.	Children will discover how our understanding of the world developed during the 'Age of Exploration', and consider how and why England undertook seafaring expeditions to the New World. They may then either learn more about life on board expeditionary ships, or consider how beliefs about the world changed over time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children identify changes between maps from the late 15th century and the mid 16th century, suggesting reasons why? Can children describe what seafaring expeditions were like and suggest why they were important? Can children identify some significant historic events which occurred before, during and after the Age of Exploration? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides A Sailor's Life Information Cards Worksheets 1A/1B/1C World Beliefs 1 (FSD...? activity only)
Lesson 2	To understand why British influence in India, China and Southeast Asia grew during the early years of the British Empire.	Children will consider the meaning of the words 'enslaved people' and 'trade' in the context of Britain's Empire. They will then learn about the formation of the East India Company and its plan to dominate trade in Asia. After this, children may either write a 'royal charter', or listen to and interpret an audio recording of a letter to Queen Elizabeth I.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children express their own views about Britain's slave trade? Can children explain how people may have reacted to seeing the stolen treasures aboard the <i>Madre de Deus</i>? Can children explain how the East India Company was able to gain influence in India? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Challenge Cards 2A/2B/2C Royal Charter 2A/2B sheets Battle of Flores Audio & Transcript (FSD...? activity only) Battle of Flores Notes (FSD...? activity only)
Lesson 3	To begin to understand how trade (and therefore British control) in India grew, and how people resisted the East India Company.	Children will learn why and how the East India Company gained control of trade in India, China, Japan and Southeast Asia. They will also consider why spices, in particular, were such prized commodities, and how many people resisted the East India Company in the countries it traded with.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children suggest reasons why the commodities traded in India were so valuable to the British? Can children identify reasons why India was a difficult country to rule effectively at that time? Can children identify ways in which the East India Company was able to gain control of trade in India? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Discussion Answers cards Discussion Questions cards East India Company Game Board & Cards (FSD...? activity only) Dice and counters (FSD...? activity only)
Lesson 4	To understand and explain how the British Raj in India was established, and what life under British rule was like.	Children will discover how and why the East India Company's control of India came to an end, then learn about what life was like after under the British Raj. They may then either consider what life in India was like for various social groups, or sort statements about British rule into 'good' and 'bad' lists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children suggest reasons why many Indian people became unhappy with the East India Company? Can children identify ways in which British rule of India was established and structured? Can children give their own opinions about Britain's 'supreme rule' over the Indian people? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides British Raj Groups and Statements cards Life in Victorian Britain cards British Raj: good or bad? sheet (FSD...? activity only)
Lesson 5	To learn about British rule in India, and consider its pros and cons.	Children will consider reasons why the British Empire grew significantly during the 19th century, then discuss ways in which British rule in India was both helpful and harmful. They may then either sort statements about British rule into pros and cons, or study archive footage of India under British rule.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children suggest some benefits of expanding the Empire for Britain? Can children suggest pros and cons of being part of the British Empire for colony countries? Can children identify reasons why the Indian people sought independence? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Activity Cards 5A/5B Worksheet 5 (FSD...? activity only)
Lesson 6	To understand how Britain has influenced and been influenced by other Commonwealth countries.	Children will learn a little about India's involvement in the Second World War, then look briefly at how the British Empire 'ended' as colonies (particularly India) gained independence. They will go on to consider ways in which former colonies and their people influence British life today, and find out what the Commonwealth is and what its values are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children suggest reasons why so many countries sought independence from Britain? Do children have a broad understanding of what the Commonwealth is? Can children suggest ways in which Britain has influenced and been influenced by other countries? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides End of Empire 'eBook' Worksheets 6A/6B/6C Commonwealth Charter Values cards (FSD...? activity only)