

# Year 8 Review 3 Revision

## Part 1

## 2.2A Exploring the world

As the Tudor age began, Europeans were beginning to make some amazing discoveries about their world. By this time, most educated people realized that the Earth is a **sphere**, but didn't really know its true size or how much land there was. So how did this change? Why were people so keen to find out more about the world? And who were the important individuals in this age of exploration?

### Mission Objectives

- Explore what Europeans knew of the world at the beginning of the Tudor age.
- Summarize why explorers were so keen to discover new routes to foreign lands.
- Explain the significance of key explorers.

### Who knows what?

By the early 1400s, Europeans obviously knew about European lands such as England, Spain, Scotland, Portugal, France and Italy. They also knew of the Holy Land (then ruled by Turks), much of Africa, Russia and lands in the east such as China and India. Other than that, they weren't really sure!

### Money, money, money

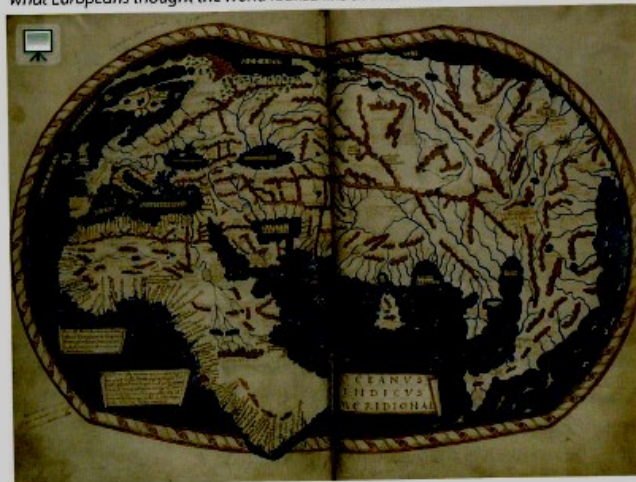
One of the main reasons why Europeans were so keen to travel to foreign lands was to make lots of money. For centuries, Europeans had travelled by land to places like India and China where they bought wonderful silk cloth, spices, perfumes, jewels and porcelain (see **Source B**). When these exotic and very fashionable goods arrived back in Europe, they were sold at very high prices and the traders or merchants made huge profits.

### What Happened When?

In 1489, a coin called a 'sovereign' was first created. The coin featured Henry VIII on one side and the royal coat of arms on the other, and was made of 23-carat gold!

1489

**SOURCE A:** This map, drawn by Henricus Martellus around 1489, shows what Europeans thought the world looked like at that time.



**SOURCE B:** This wall hanging from the late sixteenth century shows traders in India.



### Travel problems

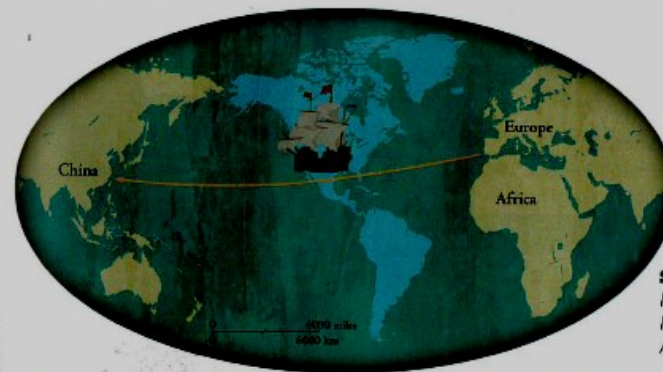
However, the journey by land from Europe to India and China (and back) was very dangerous and could take over three years – and the Turks charged traders a fortune to pass through their lands. As a result, some traders wanted to find an alternative route to these faraway lands... perhaps by sea?

### New technology

Fortunately for the traders, a number of improvements in ship-building and **navigation** were taking place at this time. For example, better sails made ships easier to steer and an ancient Greek invention called an **astrolabe** was developed to help sailors figure out how far north or south they were whilst at sea (see **Source C**). This meant that the traders might not have to travel by land to get to China and India at all.

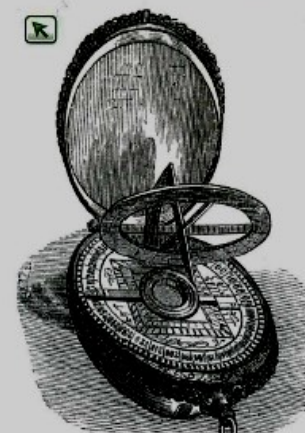
### A new theory

By the 1490s, there was a growing belief that it was possible to reach China and India by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean in order to reach the East. In other words, they could sail all around the Earth by sea, instead of having to go overland. Remember, people had absolutely no idea that the continents of North and South America were in the way, so some thought that this was a perfectly good idea! One man, Christopher Columbus, decided to test this theory in 1492. Some people thought he was mad. Columbus just hoped that it would make him rich!



### Wise Up Words

astrolabe native navigation  
sphere voyage



**SOURCE C:** This astrolabe was owned by Sir Francis Drake, the first British person to sail around the world.

**SOURCE D:** Columbus thought he could sail to China like this. He had no idea that North and South America were in the way!

### Work

- 1 Explain why some Europeans were so keen to find a new route to the eastern lands of China and India.  
discovered in 1489. You might need to look in a modern atlas.
- 2 Look at **Source A**.  
a How can you tell that a lot was known about the west coast of Africa in 1489, but not the east coast?  
b Make a list of some of the places in the world that we know exist today that Europeans had not
- 3 a What is an astrolabe?  
b How might an astrolabe have helped Christopher Columbus?
- 4 In your own words, describe Columbus' plan to reach China and India.



## 2.2B Exploring the world

### Setting out

Columbus first tried to borrow money for his journey from the kings of Portugal, France and England. They all refused. Eventually, tempted by the promise of gold and spices, Queen Isabella of Spain funded his **voyage**.

He then bought three ships, the *Pinta*, the *Niña* and the *Santa María*, and hired around 100 men to act as his crew. He set off on 3 August 1492.

### All at sea

The voyage went well for about six weeks. The crew occasionally went swimming, fished and sang together. Columbus read passages from the Bible to the men. However, by early October the crew were becoming unhappy. Water and food supplies were getting low and there was no sign of India or China. Was Columbus wrong? Perhaps the world wasn't a sphere after all? Were they about to fall off the edge of the world?

### Land, land!

On 12 October, Columbus' luck changed when a lookout on the *Pinta* spotted land. Columbus sailed ashore and named the island San Salvador, meaning 'Holy Saviour' (it is now also known as Watling Island). He spent the next few months sailing around the Caribbean islands and Cuba. He found **natives** of these islands and kidnapped six of them to take back to Queen Isabella! He also took some gold, several fish and some parrots.

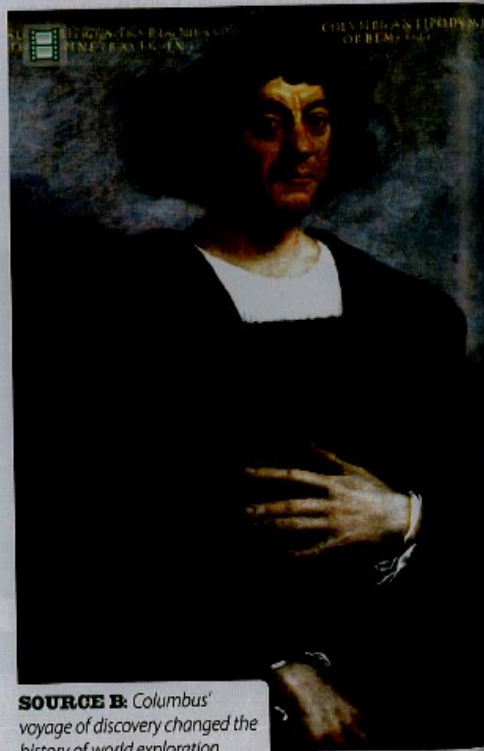
### A new hero

Columbus returned home to a hero's welcome. He made three more trips to these new islands and also landed on the South American mainland. Until his death in 1506, Columbus still thought he'd found a new route to India or China. Native Americans were even called Indians and today, some people still refer to them as American 'Indians'. We still call the islands he visited the West Indies too. Columbus had no idea that he had found the new continents of North and South America, which Europeans did not know existed. Only in later years, after explorers had found other lands, did people realize that Columbus had discovered a 'new world'.

10 October 1492

*'He navigated west-south-west. They went ten miles an hour and at times twelve and sometimes seven... The men could now bear no more. They complained of the long voyage. But Admiral Columbus cheered them as best he could, holding out bright hopes of the gains they could make. He said God would keep them safe.'*

**SOURCE A:** From the logbook of Columbus' ships.



**SOURCE B:** Columbus' voyage of discovery changed the history of world exploration.

### Columbus – the first of many

Columbus' success inspired other explorers. The promise of wealth, better maps, compasses and sails meant that more people would travel the world.

- Vasco da Gama (from Portugal) – In 1498, he proved it was possible to reach India by sailing around the bottom of Africa and up its eastern coast.
- Amerigo Vespucci (from Italy) – From 1499 to 1504, he continued exploring the area where Columbus had sailed and even further down the South American coast. Many people think America was named after him.
- Ferdinand Magellan (from Portugal) – On 20 September 1519, five ships and 270 men set off on a journey around the world. Magellan, the leader, died on the voyage but his crew sailed on. One ship and eighteen of his original crew made it home in 1522.
- John Cabot (from Italy) – In 1497, he tried to reach Asia by sailing north-west. He sailed to Canada.

### FACT!

Explorers brought back interesting new goods from their voyages. These items had never been seen in Europe before... and were a huge success. They included tomatoes, pineapples, tobacco, potatoes, turkeys and cocoa.



→ Columbus - first to America in 1492  
→ Da Gama - first to India in 1498  
→ Magellan - first trip around the world in 1522

### FACT!

The lookout on Columbus' ship, *Pinta*, who first spotted land, was called Rodrigo. As Queen Isabella had offered a reward for the first man to see land, Rodrigo thought he was about to receive a pension every year for life. However, Columbus kept the money for himself... he argued that he had actually spotted land first but just wasn't sure, so it should be his reward.

**SOURCE C:** This map shows the routes of three famous explorers' voyages.

### Work

- Write the following sentences into your books. Next to each sentence, write whether it is true or false. If you believe a sentence is false, write the correct sentence underneath.
  - Vasco da Gama reached India by sailing around the bottom of Italy.
  - America is named after the British explorer Amerigo Vespucci.
  - Ferdinand Magellan did not survive the first full journey around the world.
  - John Cabot, from Scotland, discovered Australia.
- Read **Source A** carefully.
  - What examples can you give to show that Columbus was a strong leader?
  - Make up your own logbook entry for 12 October. Remember to mention Rodrigo.
- Where did Columbus think he had discovered in 1492?
  - Was he correct?
- Explorers were treated as heroes at this time – why do you think this was?
- The Big Write!**  
 Imagine you are a ship's captain returning with previously unknown goods from distant lands. Write a letter to a friend describing some of these new goods. (Good luck describing a turkey!)



## 4.1A How did Britain build an empire?

Britain once controlled more countries and ruled over more people than any other nation in the world... ever! In 1900, for example, Britain ruled over 450 million people living in 56 different places all over the world. This amounted to a quarter of the world's population and a quarter of the Earth's total land area! All this land was known as the British Empire... and it all started on 5 March 1496 when the first Tudor king, Henry VII, ruled the country. So what exactly happened on that date? And how does it link to Britain having the largest empire the world has ever known?

### Mission Objectives

- Explore how and why the British Empire began.
- Examine the significance of key individuals in the growth of the British Empire.

### Age of discovery

In the late 1400s, explorers from Spain and Portugal made some dramatic discoveries. **Sources A** and **B** show some of them.

In 1492, an Italian explorer named Christopher Columbus (who was working for the Spanish) set sail across the Atlantic Ocean hoping to find new routes to India and China by sea. Instead, he discovered the West Indies, which Europeans didn't know existed! He sailed back several times and found more places. (See **Source A**.)

Vasco da Gama, from Portugal, was the first European to find a new route to India by sea. (Columbus didn't actually reach India, remember!) Da Gama sailed around the bottom of Africa and up the other side. (See **Source B**.)

**SOURCE A:** Christopher Columbus' journey in 1492.



**SOURCE B:** Vasco da Gama's journey.



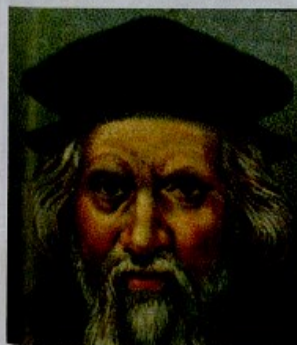
### Here comes Henry!

In 1496, England joined the age of exploration when King Henry VII gave an Italian explorer called John Cabot the mission of finding new lands. (See **Sources C** and **D**.)

### New found land

In 1497, Cabot sailed westwards from the port of Bristol across the Atlantic Ocean. A few months later, he landed on the coast of North America in what we now call Canada. He named it Newfoundland (for obvious reasons!), which the area is still called today. (See **Source E**.)

But there were no great riches to be found in this newly discovered place – no silks, no spices and no gold! So Cabot came home. However, this brief visit was the start of the British Empire. The British had claimed this land and intended to keep it. Over time, British settlers would move out to live in Newfoundland and eventually settle all along the east coast of what would become known as North America. In fact, the age of British people travelling abroad and taking land to live on had arrived!



**SOURCE C:** John Cabot set out to find Asia and instead found North America.

*'You have free and full authority to sail to all parts and countries of the East, West and North under our flags with five ships and as many sailors as they can hold to seek, discover and find whatever islands, countries, regions or provinces of the heathens and infidels, whoever they may be and in what part of the world they be, which before this time have been unknown to all Christians.'*

### Wise Up Words

colony heathen infidel

**SOURCE D:** Henry VII gave these orders to John Cabot on 5 March 1496. At the time, 'heathens' and 'infidels' referred to non-Christians.



**SOURCE E:** John Cabot's journey in 1497. When Cabot set sail from Bristol, one of the men in charge of the port was Richard Ameryk. Some people say that America was named after him. Others claim it was named after the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci, who sailed to this 'new world' several times.

### Work

- What is meant by the word 'empire'?
  - Why do many people think that 5 March 1496 was the day that the British Empire began?
- Look at **Source D**.
  - Why do you think Henry VII was so keen to find new lands?
  - Did it matter whether any of the land Cabot found was inhabited or not? Explain your answer.
  - What does Henry VII's order tell us about his attitude? Give reasons for your answer.
- 7** Explain what is meant by the word 'significant'.
  - How were Columbus, Henry VII and Cabot significant in the creation of the British Empire?



## 4.1B How did Britain build an empire?

### A false start?

John Cabot and his sailors didn't stay long in the 'new found land' of North America. They were short of supplies and wanted to get back home. In fact, no British settlers followed in Cabot's steps and went to live there for many years. When Henry VII died, his son Henry VIII did little to encourage people to revisit North America either. Neither did Edward VI, nor Mary I. They were clearly proud of the land that had been found in the New World (and felt it belonged to them), but didn't send people to live there. However, all that changed when Elizabeth I (Henry VII's granddaughter) became queen. She was very interested in exploring the world!

### Go Gilbert go!

In 1578, Queen Elizabeth gave permission to an explorer called Humphrey Gilbert to travel to North America and build a settlement (known as a **colony**). The settlers hoped to farm, fish and perhaps find gold. Gilbert claimed hundreds of miles of land for the queen... but the settlers gave up and came home! Today, however, the area around where Gilbert landed is regarded as the first part of the British Empire. (See **Sources A** and **B**.)

### New World Walter

In 1584, Queen Elizabeth sent another explorer called Walter Raleigh over to North America to set up another settlement. But this failed too because the settlers struggled to grow crops. However, in 1607, when King James I was on the throne, a group of settlers *did* manage to survive out in the New World and start new lives. They built homes and grew new crops like tobacco, sugar and cotton, which they sold back to Britain and made lots of money. Before long, there were hundreds of British people living in North America, trying to make money and start a new life.

### Money, money, money

Soon, British businessmen (or traders) realized that if they bought popular items abroad, where they were cheap, and brought them back to Britain, they could be sold for high prices. So traders travelled all over the world to get exotic spices, luxury cloth and goods like sugar, tea, coffee, and fur. Then they brought them back to Britain and made a fortune selling them. Sometimes the traders might build a huge trading station in the foreign land to keep themselves safe... and often took lots of land around it.



**SOURCE A:** Sir Humphrey Gilbert cuts the soil in Newfoundland in August 1583. The ceremony symbolized that the land was now English. The natives had no say in the matter!

**SOURCE B:** This plaque commemorates the place in North America where Gilbert claimed land for Queen Elizabeth.

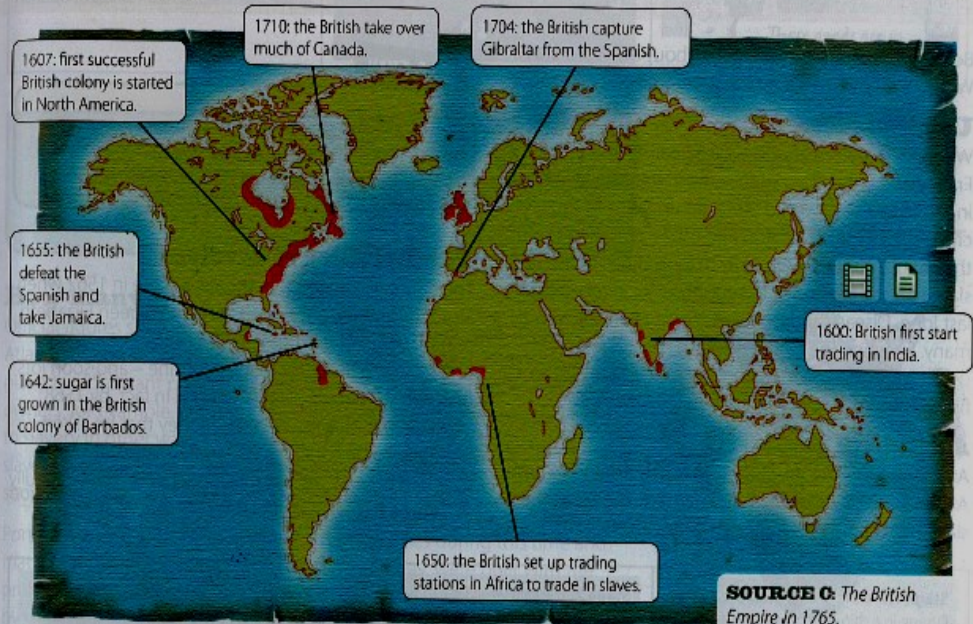


### Fight, fight, fight!

Occasionally, the British would fight with a foreign power, like Spain or the Netherlands, and take some of their overseas land too. In 1665, for example, the British seized a town called New Amsterdam from the Dutch... and renamed it New York after King Charles II's brother, the Duke of York! So, as a result of gaining land by either winning it or taking it, Britain managed to get control of several different areas in various parts of the world (see **Source C**). Over the next 200 years, this British Empire would grow to become the largest the world had ever known!

### What Happened When?

In 1607, the same year that the first successful British colony in America was founded, 'God Save the King' was first sung. It was performed at a banquet given to celebrate James I's escape from the Gunpowder Plot.



### Work

- Each of these dates is important in the early years of Britain's empire: 1497; 1583; 1492; 1584; 1607; 1496; 1665; 1642; 1710; 1600; 1655. Write the dates in order. Beside each date, write what happened in that year. (You might have to turn back to pages 64 and 65 to find some of the dates.)
- In your own words, explain how each of the following places got their names:  
• Newfoundland • the New World • New York
- Explain how the following helped the British Empire to grow:  
• trade • wars • new crops

### Be a Top Historian

The growth of Britain's empire had several **causes**. Top historians know that most events have a number of causes... and these causes can sometimes be **linked**. Can you link together any of the main causes of the growth of Britain's empire?



# How did the Empire grow?

## MISSION OBJECTIVES

- To understand why America became the first part of the British Empire.

Look at Source A. You should recognize the queen (it's Elizabeth I!), but if you look carefully you can see lots of other details too. In the background to the right you can see stormy weather and lots of wrecked Spanish ships. To the left you can see English ships sailing in the sunshine. This portrait was painted to commemorate England's defeat of the Spanish Navy (or Armada) in 1588. However, there is another fascinating part of the picture.

Notice the globe in the painting – the Queen is pointing to the newly found continent of the Americas, and particularly a region in North America called Virginia, which one of her explorers had claimed for her in 1588. He even named this new **colony** after her (as Elizabeth was known as 'The Virgin Queen'!). In fact at the time this painting was completed the first English child had just been born in Elizabeth's newest colony, and the baby was called... Virginia!

- So how exactly did Elizabeth get this land?
- Who got it for her?
- How did Elizabeth's new colony bring England into conflict with other countries?

## A false start?

It was during the time of Queen Elizabeth's grandfather, King Henry VII, that Christopher Columbus was the first European to discover the Americas in 1492. He was followed by both Spain and their allies, Portugal, who were busy capturing and colonizing lots of land in South America, Central America and the Caribbean. They didn't pay much attention to what we now call the USA and Canada, because they thought this part of the continent needed too much work to make any money from it. It was much easier to get gold and silver from Mexico and South America instead.

The English, then, were left to claim land in North America and in 1497 John Cabot (an Italian working for Henry VII) claimed a huge area of Canada for the King. He called it Newfoundland, and it became the first part of England's new Empire.



**SOURCE A:** The Armada portrait, painted by George Gower in 1588.

However, Cabot and his crew did not stay long. No English settlers went to live there and the native people continued to live their lives as they had done for thousands of years. Over the next few years Spanish, Portuguese, French and English fishermen went to catch cod in the area, but no one actually settled there!

In fact the kings and queens who immediately followed Henry VII (his son Henry VIII and then Edward VI and Mary I) did little to expand England's Empire. They were clearly proud of the land they had 'found' in the 'New World', but didn't send people to live over there. Instead they encouraged their explorers to find new trade routes to China, India and the Spice Islands.

But all this changed when Elizabeth I (Henry VII's granddaughter) became queen!

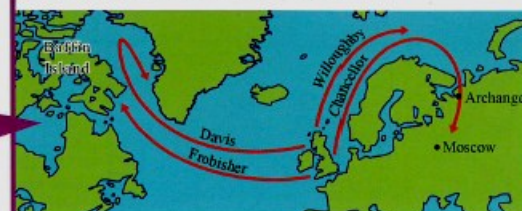
Look through the following story carefully – it shows how England's Empire grew and grew during Elizabeth I's reign.

By the mid 1500s Spain controlled lots of land in the Americas, including Cuba, Jamaica and Peru.



Whilst Spain could boast of finding gold, tobacco, potatoes, cotton, sugar and rum in their new colonies, England had to be content with sailing to the northern part of North America... and finding cod.

With Spain and Portugal controlling most of the trade routes to Central and South America, England's explorers had to find new ways to reach China, India and the Spice Islands by going above Russia and what we now call Canada.



Explorers like Hugh Willoughby, Richard Chancellor, Martin Frobisher and John Davis didn't find any new routes to China or India... but became sailing heroes because of their brave and exciting voyages.

Elizabeth even encouraged explorers like Sir Francis Drake, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir John Hawkins to steal gold and silver from Spanish ships that were bringing it back to Spain from the New World. They also stole valuable maps and sea charts.



These men were known as **privateers** but really they were acting like pirates – with Queen Elizabeth's permission!

Elizabeth, who became Queen of England in 1559, quickly saw advantages in allowing her sailors to explore as much of the world as they could.

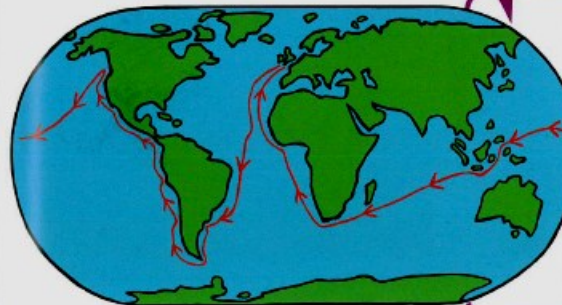


If they found new routes to faraway places, England would become wealthy through trade.

In 1577, the privateer Sir Francis Drake set off on a successful journey around the world. He became only the second man to do this. (The first was Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan.)



On his way he landed on the western coast of America – and claimed it for England. He also stole more Spanish gold. From one ship he stole 40kg of gold, jewels, precious plates and 26 tons of silver. It could be worth about £12 million today!





In 1583 Sir Humphrey Gilbert was given permission by Queen Elizabeth to travel to Newfoundland (Canada) and set up a colony over there.



Gilbert claimed hundreds of miles of land for England - but the settlers gave up and came home. However, today the area around where Gilbert landed is regarded as the first part of the British Empire!

**SOURCE B:** A painting of Sir Humphrey Gilbert cutting the soil in Newfoundland in August 1583. This ceremony symbolized that the land around there was now English. The natives (see picture) had no say in the matter! The colony didn't last long and the settlers left after a few weeks - Gilbert himself was killed on the journey home when his ship sank in a storm!



In 1584 Queen Elizabeth sent one of her favourites, Sir Walter Raleigh, to start another settlement further down the coast from Gilbert's failed colony.



The new colony was named Virginia after a name Elizabeth was known by - 'The Virgin Queen'. The area of land Raleigh claimed was huge, covering hundreds of miles of North American coastline.

Raleigh didn't stay in Virginia but nearly 100 settlers (or colonists) tried to start new lives in this new English colony. Their settlement was called Roanoke.



However, the settlers were short on supplies, had little idea how to farm the land properly... and the local tribes were hostile.

When, after a few years, Raleigh tried to start another settlement in Virginia, all the new settlers found were empty cabins... and bones!



A friendly local tribe reported that the settlers had been attacked and those that survived had sailed up the coast in their boat... never to be seen again!

There were 117 settlers in the second group. They landed in July 1587.



On 18 August a woman named Eleanor Dare gave birth to the first English child born in America. She was named Virginia.

However, the settlers again struggled to survive and ran into difficulties with the local tribes.



In fact, the settlers found life so hard in the new colony that one of them, John White, returned to England to get fresh supplies and tools and to ask for help.

When White returned to the colony in 1590 he found it had been deserted. There was no sign of the men, women or children (including Virginia) and no sign of any fight or struggle.



The only clue was the word 'Croatoan' carved into a post and 'Cro' carved into a tree! The Croatan were a local tribe that had been friendly with the settlers.

**WISE-UP Words**  
colony East India Company  
Moscow Company privateers

None of the settlers were ever found and to this day, no one knows whether they ran away, or were killed by hostile tribes or even Spanish invaders.



Roanoke is often called 'The Lost Colony'... and it was several years before any more English colonists tried to settle in Virginia!

**FACT** Names, names, names

European settlers in America called the local people 'Indians' (because the first explorers there thought they had landed in India) or 'Redskins'. Today, they are known as Native Americans, Amerindians or First Americans.



**SOURCE C:** Landing at Roanoke.

## Coming to America

The first few Virginian colonies and Newfoundland were failures - but without doubt, England had laid claim to a large part of the eastern coast of North America. As far as the English were concerned, this part of the New World belonged to them and they were prepared to fight to defend it.

## Money, money, money

Meanwhile, in the other parts of the world the English were busy making money from trade. Popular items were bought from abroad, where they were cheap, and brought back to England where they could be sold for a high price.

A number of rich businessmen formed groups - or companies - to trade all over the world. With special permission from Queen Elizabeth, the **Moscow Company** brought wood, tar and rope from Russia while the **East India Company** brought rugs, spices and jewels from India. It looked as if trade and empire were here to stay!

## Work

- Each of these dates is important in the early years of Britain's Empire: 1583; 1590; 1492; 1497; 1559; 1587; 1584; 1577. Write down the dates in order. Beside each, write what happened in that year.
- In your own words, explain how each of the following got their names:
  - The New World
  - Newfoundland
  - The Virginia colony.

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

- Can you explain why the first settlers went to live in North America and why these first few settlements failed?



## DEPTH STUDY

### BRITISH AMERICA

As far as Europeans were concerned, before 1492, the known world consisted of Europe, Africa and Asia. However, all that changed when Columbus accidentally discovered the Americas (he thought he was on his way to China or India, remember!). In the years that followed, all sorts of countries claimed land in the Americas and England began to dominate North America (what we now know as the USA and Canada). This Depth Study looks at how that happened. It studies how the first successful colonists managed to survive, why the number of British settlers grew, how the local tribes reacted to this 'European invasion', and finally how the British eventually 'lost' America as it gained its independence.

## 1: Jamestown 1607: Are you tough enough?

### MISSION OBJECTIVES

- To find out why English people first settled in America.
- To understand how difficult they found their new life to begin with.

After a few failed attempts to settle in North America a new colony called Jamestown was established in Virginia in 1607. This colony survived – but would you have been tough enough to live there? Read the following story carefully – and look through the sources – before attempting the work section at the end.

### 14 May 1607

James I became King of England after his cousin, Queen Elizabeth I, died in 1603. In 1606 he gave permission for a group of businessmen to set up the Virginia Company. Their aim was to sail to Virginia, establish a settlement, and see if the land was fit to grow crops. They were also on the lookout for gold! By December 1606 the settlers, sailors, ships and businessmen were ready and around 150 people set sail for America – which they reached on 14 May 1607. Forty-five people died on the voyage. The settlers quickly built a fort and other buildings, which they named 'Jamestown' after the king.



↑ SOURCE A: Arrival at Jamestown.

'Twenty or thirty went ashore but were assaulted by the Indians who charged at them. Captain Archer and Matthew Morton were shot with arrows but Captain Newport shot back at them with his pistol. Having shot all their arrows, the Indians fled. At that place we made our choice to build a great city, then everything was brought ashore and we quickly began to build our fort.'

↪ SOURCE B: Written by Captain John Smith, one of the early settlers in Virginia. From 'A True Relation of Occurrences and Accidents in Virginia' by John Smith, 1608.

### Life in the New World

Life for the settlers was tough – very tough. For a start, many of them were 'gentlemen' who had never built anything or farmed in their lives. They struggled to grow crops properly and soon suffered from starvation. Diseases like malaria were a problem, and there was the issue of the natives too. Sometimes they got on well with the local tribes – but at other times they fought. In fact, by 1609, only 60 of the original settlers were still alive!

'The land can easily sustain us – there are plenty of fish, deer, stags and rabbits, with many fruits and roots good for meat. There are valleys and plains streaming with sweet springs, there are hills and mountains full of hidden treasure not yet searched.'



↑ SOURCE E: A picture claiming to show what life was like for settlers in America.

### Success at last

Despite all the setbacks, the settlers who survived were determined to stay. Together with new arrivals – and with help from the friendlier natives – they began to farm the land properly. One of the main crops the settlers grew was tobacco. It was easy to grow and brought in lots of money. Smoking was becoming more and more popular in Europe so the settlers sent it back 'home' to sell.

And once the money started flowing into Jamestown, the colony grew as more and more people left England to make their fortune in the New World. Soon settlements sprang up all over Virginia – the British were there to stay!

'It is inhabited by wild and savage people that live all over the forests. They have no law but native and wear clothes made from the skin of beasts and some go naked. The better sorts have houses, but poor ones have neither Arts nor Science, but are generally loving and gentle and do entertain us with kindness. They are easy to be brought to good but would happily like better conditions.'

↑ SOURCE C: A description of the tribes encountered by the settlers, from 'Nova Britannia' by R.I., 1609.

↪ SOURCE D: A description of the land provided by the Virginia Company – who organized the voyage to Jamestown. They were desperate for more people to go out there and make their settlement a success.

## + Hungry for MORE

Captain John Smith, one of the original settlers, was captured by tribesmen in December 1607. He claimed his life was saved by a tribal princess called Pocahontas. Find out the real story of this remarkable woman and compare it to the Disney film.

### Work

- 1 Look at Source B. What does the choice of building erected first tell us about the feelings and experiences of these new settlers when they arrived in America?
- 2 Look at Source C.
  - a In your own words, describe what these new settlers witnessed when they met the 'natives'.
  - b Do you think these settlers felt that they were more civilized than the natives? Explain your answer.
- 3 Look at Sources D and E. Do you think they give a reliable view of life in the New World? Give reasons for your answer.

### MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

- Can you explain why English people first settled in America?



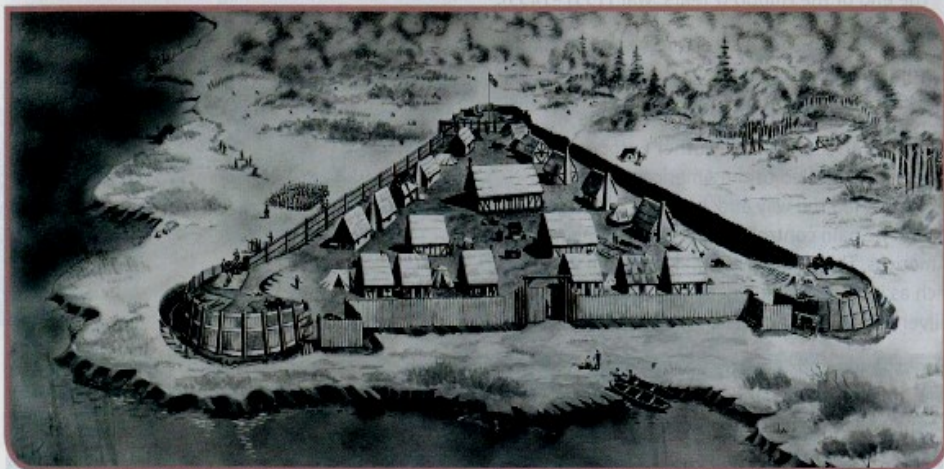
## Key term

### Joint-stock company\*:

A company where a group of investors share the cost and the profits of their business between them.

## Early English colonies in America

The first successful English colony in America was Jamestown, named after King James I. It was founded in 1607 by members of the Virginia Company, an English joint-stock company\* set up to establish settlements in America. The colonists discovered that a particular crop that was known and used by the natives grew very well there. That crop was tobacco. Over time, plantations developed. By 1621, Virginia was exporting 160,000 kilograms of tobacco per year to Britain.



### Interpretation 1:

Mid 20th-century drawing of James Fort in Jamestown, the first permanent English colony in Virginia.

England's second colony in America was established in 1620. The colonists' ship, the *Mayflower*, was aiming for Virginia but was blown off course. The colonists landed in an area that became known as New England and established a colony, which they named Plymouth. The coast of New England offered an abundance of good fishing. By the 1680s, hundreds of thousands of barrels of dried cod were being sent from New England to Britain. As more British people came to see the potential wealth that America offered, more companies were set up, more ships were chartered and more colonists made the journey across the Atlantic.

- By 1700, over 700,000 people had emigrated from Britain and more colonies were founded.
- Between 1607 and 1732, 13 colonies were established by the British on the North American Atlantic coast.

The colonists included some people who had no choice about whether or not to go to America. The first African slaves were brought to Jamestown in 1619 to work on Virginia's tobacco plantations. In addition, about 50,000 convicts were sent from Britain to America and forced to work on cotton plantations.

## The Virginia Company

The Virginia Company financed the founding of the American colonies. It paid for the ships and the resources needed to establish the colonies.



With the permission of the monarch, we can import tobacco, fish, furs and timber from America and sell at a great profit.

## Indentured labourers

Around two-thirds of British colonists in America were indentured labourers – volunteers who signed up to move to America. If they worked for a fixed amount of time, they would then be given their own land.



There simply aren't enough jobs here in England. We'll starve! What are we going to do?

I've seen an advert from the Virginia Company. If we work for free on the plantations in Virginia for five years, then they will give us land of our own.

## King James I

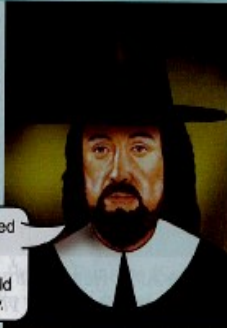
King James I established a royal monopoly on the tobacco trade, meaning that the Virginia Company was the only English company that could trade tobacco.



Tax from the tobacco trade is proving to be very profitable. I shall encourage more ships to head to the New World.

## The Pilgrim Fathers

Around one-third of the original Plymouth colonists were Puritans, known as the Pilgrim Fathers, looking to build a new society in America. Later, many thousands more moved to America to practise their religion freely.



In England we are not allowed to practise our Puritan faith. If we do, we are punished. We must go to the New World where we can worship freely.

Figure 5.3: Some of the people involved in British colonisation in North America, and their motivations.

## Your turn!

- 1 Re-read the information on page 131. Try to identify at least two reasons why Queen Elizabeth I wanted colonies in America.
- 2 Look at Figure 5.3. List as many reasons as you can why these people supported colonisation in America.
- 3 'British colonisation of America was entirely the result of the desire for wealth.' Do you agree? Write a paragraph to support your answer using information from your answers to questions 1 and 2. Then hold a class vote to compare your views.
- 4 At the time, how many of the people in Figure 5.3 would have considered that they were building an empire? Discuss this question as a class.

## Checkpoint

- 1 Which European country ruled the largest American empire in the 16th century?
- 2 During whose reign were the first attempts to establish an English colony in America?
- 3 Where was the first successful English colony in America and when was it founded?
- 4 List three things that the early British colonies in America exported to Britain.



## Controlling trade in the Atlantic

The trade in tobacco and sugar continued to grow rapidly in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Demand in Europe increased as smoking became fashionable and sugar became a fashionable luxury item. Other trades also developed in the northern Atlantic.



**Source C:** An English map of North America and the Caribbean from around 1650.

In the 16th century, British traders had ventured into newly discovered areas of what is now Canada. In the area around Hudson's Bay (named after the English explorer Henry Hudson) they found an abundance of furs and timber. They established trading factories\* and began exporting back to Britain.

A large and profitable empire meant that Britain needed a much bigger navy to protect colonies and control trade. In 1650, the Royal Navy had just 72 ships. By 1700, that number had more than doubled to 166, making it the most powerful navy of any European country.

In addition, laws were introduced to ensure that some of the profits from trade made it back to the government in London. British monarchs awarded monopolies to particular companies in return for the payment of high tariffs\*.

**Table 5.1:** Large companies that were awarded monopolies.

Date	Company	What it traded	Where it traded
1622	Virginia Company	Tobacco	East Coast of North America
1660	Royal African Company	Slaves	West Africa
1670	Hudson's Bay Company	Furs	Canada

In the mid 17th century, a series of Navigation Acts were also introduced. These laws said that British colonies were allowed to trade only with England. Colonists were supposed to buy goods only from England and sell their produce only to English traders. The ships of the Royal Navy would 'police' the oceans, ensuring, as best as they could, that the laws were upheld.

Monopolies and the Navigation Acts proved unpopular with many traders and colonists, as they limited who they could trade with. They also led to an increasing number of smugglers\*, as people tried to avoid the laws. Despite this, these new laws did help to increase the British monarchy's control over the British Empire and ensured that the British made greater profit from trade within the Empire.

### Key terms

**Trading factory\*:** A building or settlement where people could meet to carry out trade.

**Tariff\*:** A tax paid on goods that are imported.

**Smuggler\*:** Someone who trades goods illegally.

## The rise and fall of piracy

Smuggling and piracy reached a peak in the early 18th century. Pirates, once useful allies of the British Empire, instead became a serious problem as they disrupted trade. During what is known as the Golden Age of Piracy (c.1690–c.1720), the Caribbean pirates became so powerful that they even took control of Nassau, a British colony in the Bahamas.

Blackbeard was an important pirate leader. He was hunted down by the Royal Navy and, in 1718, he was killed in battle. Whereas pirates like Morgan had once been rewarded and even knighted, by the 18th century they were being hunted and killed. The British Royal Navy retook control of Nassau in 1718, after which piracy declined in the Caribbean. Without a base for pirates to harbour their ships and sell their goods, piracy became a much more difficult and dangerous job, and fewer sailors were willing to take the risk. By the middle of the 18th century, the Golden Age of Piracy was over. Instead, the Royal Navy ruled the waves.



**Source D:** Edward Thatch, more commonly known as Blackbeard, is one of the most famous pirates from the Golden Age of Piracy. He placed lit fuses in his hair and beard to make himself appear more terrifying to his victims. The image is taken from a book called *A History of the Pirates*, published in 1736.

### Did you know?

Pirates had many rules on their ships. One rule was that no women were allowed to work as crew. That did not stop all women, though, as some dressed up as men to gain work on the ships! Two women who did just that were Mary Read and Anne Bonny. They went on to become two of the most famous pirates of the Golden Age.

### Your turn

- Study Source C and answer the following questions.
  - Which areas shown were most developed at the time? How do you know?
  - Why do you think that central North America and the north-west of America are left blank?
  - Can you identify any inaccuracies on the map? Why do you think these mistakes were made?
- Can you think of any other questions that a historian might use Source C to answer?

### Checkpoint

- What is a privateer?
- Why did the British government have to rely on privateers to attack its enemies?
- What is a monopoly?
- Why were monopolies and Navigation Acts unpopular with some traders?



## DEPTH STUDY

### BRITISH AMERICA

The first settlers in America arrived from many different European countries including Spain, France, Sweden, Finland, Holland and Britain (see Source A)... and they all had different plans for this 'New World'! The Spanish, for example, wanted gold and new land, whilst the French were more interested in trading goods like furs and tobacco than in taking over. The British took land too, hoping to grow crops that they could sell back in Europe for high profits.

## 2: Life in the colonies

### MISSION OBJECTIVES

- To describe how Britain came to dominate the 'New World'.

### Get off my land!

With more settlers in the New World came more arguments over territory, and many disputes with Native Americans as well. For example, one island, the Caribbean island of St. Martin, was first claimed in 1493 by Christopher Columbus for Spain. Not long after, all of the native people had either been killed or turned into slaves – and then the French took over, then the Dutch, and then the British invaded. In fact, the land changed hands 12 times over the next 130 years – and even today it is still divided between the French and the Dutch!

However, by the mid-1700s Britain and France had the largest presence in the Americas. The British settlers had by now divided their land into 13 areas or colonies, whilst the French had settled mainly in the north (what we now know as Canada), the middle of America and a small area in the south (see Source B). And between 1754 and 1763, these two European nations fought each other for total control of North America!

Americans today call this the French and Indian War, whilst in Britain it is known as the Seven Years War. After years of bitter and bloody fighting, in which both sides were helped by native tribes, Britain won the war and took



SOURCE A: The European invasion of America.

control of most of France's territory in the New World, including Canada. Now Britain was the dominant nation in North America.

### Thirteen colonies

The part of America occupied by the British was known as the 'thirteen colonies', because there were thirteen regions or living areas along the east coast where the Brits had settled. The settlers were mostly farmers who grew crops like corn, wheat, tobacco, rice and cotton. In some areas they produced iron, paper and cloth too (see Source D).



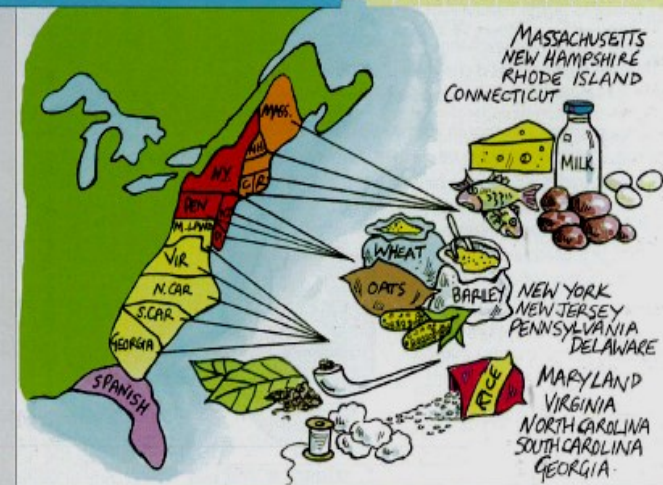
SOURCE B: How land in North America was 'roughly' divided up between the French and British (and Spanish).



SOURCE C: The Grand Union Flag. This is seen by many as America's first flag. The 13 stripes represent the 13 colonies, whilst the Union Flag indicates their tie to England.

## + Hungry for MORE

One of the most famous groups of British people to settle in America arrived in November 1620 on a ship called the 'Mayflower'. They were mainly Puritans (strict Christians) who had left Britain because they had not been free to worship God as they wished. Why not find out all you can about them? Where did they land? Did their settlement survive? And how are they remembered in America today?



SOURCE D: The 13 American colonies.

## Work

- List three reasons why different European nations decided to build settlements in North America in the 1600s and 1700s.
- What was the Seven Years War?
  - What was the outcome of this conflict?
- Look at Source C.
  - Draw Source C in your book.
  - Label your flag with its name. Underneath it, write an explanation of what the stripes represented. Why was the Union Flag included?
- Imagine you are a settler who has briefly returned to England. Prepare a short speech to give to a group who are eager to know what life is like in the New World. Explain how Britain has come to dominate North America, tell them about the 13 colonies and describe the variety of crops grown there.

### MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

- Can you explain what is meant by the 'thirteen colonies'... and point them out on a modern world map?
- Do you know what life was like in the 13 colonies?



# 6.1A Britain versus France... in North America

In the 1600s, settlers from lots of different European countries sailed over to the newly discovered continent of North America. People from Spain, France, Britain, Holland, Sweden and Finland all arrived hoping to start a new life and make their fortune. But there were more British and French settlers than from any other country so, as you'd expect, they tried to grab the most land. And when both Britain and France wanted the same piece of land, you can guess what happened, can't you? So where did the British and the French clash? Who won the war? And what impact did the fighting have on each country?

## Mission Objectives

- Outline where European settlement occurred in North America.
- Explain how Britain came to dominate the continent.

## Land grab

The British grabbed lots of land, stretching over 1600km, along the east coast of North America. They split themselves up into separate areas, or colonies, and farmed the land, growing cotton, tobacco, corn, oats, potatoes, wheat and barley. The French occupied a lot of land in the northern part of North America (now

known as Canada) and inland around the Mississippi and St Lawrence rivers.

Both the French and the British were well armed, and built forts to guard their land. The Spanish had claimed land in North America too, down in the south (see Source A).

### French territory Great Lakes/St Lawrence River

Settlements such as Quebec, Montreal and Detroit contained farmers, traders and fishermen.

### French forts

A string of forts stretched from French territory in the south up to the north.

### New Orleans area

Lots of French settlers here.

### Hudson Bay

A few hundred British hunters lived in this vast area.

### British colonies New England

Farmers, fishermen and shipbuilders.

### Middle colonies

The Dutch settled here but the British took their land. Still, a large Dutch population mixed with the British. Lots of farmers, traders and businessmen. A growing number of rich towns.

### Southern colonies

Rich farmers with huge estates growing cotton and tobacco. Slaves brought over from Africa to work on the farms.

### Quebec

A large, important town in French territory. Founded by the French in 1608.

### Florida

A Spanish colony.

### Spanish territory

The Spanish had controlled this land for a long time, but were probably unwilling to go north as they believed there was no gold there.

**SOURCE A:** A map showing how land in North America was roughly divided up between the British and the French (and the Spanish) in the 1600s.

## FACT!

When the European settlers went to America, there were tribes – **Native Americans** – already there. Obviously there was conflict between them – the tribes saw the settlers as **invaders**, while the settlers felt they had a right to live wherever they wanted. In the British areas of North America, for example, the settlers usually drove the tribes away and destroyed the forests so they could farm the land. The tribes then moved further inland onto the vast plains of North America.

## Wise Up Words

invader Native American Seven Years War

## Work

- 1 Why do you think settlers from European nations were so keen to settle in North America?
- 2 Look at **Source A**. In your own words, describe how the land in North America was divided up between different European countries.
- 3 a What is a Native American?  
b Why do you think there was conflict between Native Americans and European settlers?

**SOURCE B:** The Seven Years War.

1 The new French fort (Fort Duquesne) directly threatened British territory.

• NEW ORLEANS  
• MONTREAL  
• QUEBEC

FRENCH SETTLEMENTS

FRENCH TERRITORY

BRITISH TERRITORY

• FORT DUQUESNE: FRENCH  
• FORT WILLIAM HENRY: BRITISH  
• FORT OSWEGO: BRITISH

QUEBEC

MONTREAL

FORT WILLIAM HENRY

FORT OSWEGO

FORT DUQUESNE

NEW ORLEANS

FLORIDA

ATLANTIC

2 A British army tried to capture Fort Duquesne but was defeated.

The defeated British army was led by a young George Washington who later became the first President of the United States.

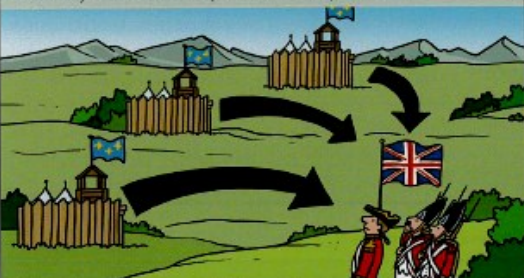
## On the warpath

By 1750, it was beginning to look like the British and the French in North America were soon going to fight. The French wanted the rich farmland that the British had developed near the east coast... and the British wanted to expand into French land so they could set up more farms. In 1754, the French built a new fort very close to British territory. The consequences of this would lead to a war between Britain and France known as the **Seven Years War**. Read through the story in **Source B** on pages 93 and 94 carefully to see who won.



## 6.1B Britain versus France... in North America

3 The French then captured two British forts (Oswego and William Henry). The French were now set for an all-out attack on British territory. War was officially declared in May 1756.



5 In 1758, the British forts of Oswego and William Henry were recaptured and the French Fort Duquesne was captured too (it was renamed 'Fort Pitt' in the Prime Minister's honour).

The French were no longer a threat to British territory... so the British went on the attack!

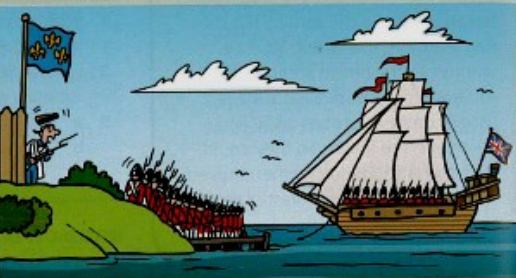


7 Under cover of darkness, James Wolfe led 5000 men in rowing boats down the river where they silently climbed the steep cliffs to launch a surprise dawn raid on the French (see **Source A**).



The British captured Quebec, but Wolfe was wounded and died soon after. The French commander, Montcalm, was also killed.

4 Meanwhile, the British Prime Minister (William Pitt) had sent lots of troops over to North America to defend British territory. The troops arrived just in time.



6 In September 1759, the British decided to attack the French city of Quebec.



The French thought the city was impossible to attack... but James Wolfe, a talented young general leading the British, had a plan!

8 Soon the British captured all the French forts and settlements, including Montreal.



A treaty, signed in Paris, gave French land in North America to Britain (except New Orleans). Britain also gained French territory in the Caribbean. Britain also gained Florida from Spain (which had fought with the French).

### A real victory?

Although Britain defeated France and took over its land in North America, the French were always looking for revenge against the British... and they would soon get their chance! Twelve years later, the people who lived in America decided they no longer wanted to be part of Britain. They decided that, despite being British and speaking English, they wanted to break free from British rule, run themselves and not pay taxes to Britain. In short, they wanted their **independence**, so the British sent over troops to control these rebels. And guess which country was only too happy to help the rebels fight the British troops? That's right, France!

### The First World War

It wasn't just Britain and France that fought each other in the Seven Years War. Austria, Russia and Sweden helped out France while Portugal and areas in what we now call Germany supported Britain. And fighting took place in other areas of the world where these countries had land, such as in the Caribbean, Africa and India. For these reasons, some historians (including Winston Churchill) called the Seven Years War the 'First World War'!


**SOURCE A:** British soldiers, in red, climb the steep cliffs in order to capture Quebec.



### Wise Up Words

independence

### Work

- 1 Read the full story of the Seven Years War and 94.
  - a Describe the role played in the war by following:
    - George Washington
    - William Pitt
    - James Wolfe.
  - b What was agreed at the Treaty of Paris?
- 2 Do you think some modern historians are describe the Seven Years War as a 'World' reasons for your answer.
- 3  Imagine you are a script-writer for Hollywood, and you've written a film about the Seven Years War. Write a short script for a film company to persuade them to make the film. What elements of the story would you use?



## DEPTH STUDY BRITISH AMERICA

By the 1700s many British settlers in America were getting upset about all the interference from the politicians back home in Britain. For example, the settlers had to sell all their important goods, such as cotton, tobacco and copper, directly to Britain and nowhere else. And if they wanted to buy anything from other countries, the goods had to go to Britain first... where they were taxed! The colonists had to pay tax on paint, glass, coffee, wine, sugar... even newspapers! Some colonists felt no connection to Britain either – they had been born in America and regarded themselves as Americans! In fact, some settlers wanted to break free from British rule and run America themselves – they wanted independence!

## 4: Revolution

### MISSION OBJECTIVES

- To understand why America finally declared independence from Britain.
- To understand what is meant by the Boston Tea Party and the Declaration of Independence.

### I want to break free

As resentment grew in America about the taxes payable to the British government, a conflict began to build. They were especially upset when the Brits taxed their cups of tea – three pence to Britain for every pound of tea sold in America. As a protest, a group of unhappy Americans (dressed as Native Americans) boarded three British ships in Boston and dumped 342 crates full of tea (£11,000-worth) into the harbour (see Sources A and B).



**SOURCE A:** The 'Boston Tea Party'. Americans today are very proud of the actions of their ancestors in 1773. They see it as a great example of how far Americans are prepared to go to speak out for their freedom.

### There was an old lady lived over the sea

There was an old lady lived over the sea  
And she was an Island Queen.  
Her daughter lived off in a new country,  
With an ocean of water between.  
The old lady's pockets were full of gold  
But never contented was she,  
So she called on her daughter to pay her a tax  
Of three pence a pound on her tea.  
'Now mother, dear mother,' the daughter replied,  
'I shan't do the thing you ax.  
I'm willing to pay a fair price for the tea,  
But never the three penny tax.'  
'You shall,' quoth the mother, and reddened with rage,  
'For you're my own daughter, you see,  
And sure, 'tis quite proper the daughter should pay  
Her mother a tax on her tea.'  
And so the old lady her servant called up  
And packed off a budget of tea.  
And eager for three pence a pound, she put  
In enough for a large family.  
She order'd her servants to bring home the tax,  
Declaring her child should obey,  
Or old as she was, and almost woman grown,  
She'd half whip her life away.  
The tea was conveyed to the daughter's door,  
All down by the ocean's side,  
And the bouncing girl pour'd out every pound  
In the dark and boiling tide.  
And then she called out to the Island Queen,  
'O mother, dear mother,' quoth she,  
'Your tea you may have when 'tis steep'd enough  
But never a tax from me.'



**SOURCE B:** An American song written after the Boston Tea Party.

The British responded to the 'Boston Tea Party' by closing the whole port of Boston... which angered the Americans even more. So when the British banned all town meetings, the Americans began meeting in secret. In September 1774, 56 representatives from the colonies met in Philadelphia to decide what to do. This meeting is known as the 'First Congress' (and even today, American Parliament is still known as 'Congress'). Delegates at the First Congress decided to fight the Brits!

### It's war!

The British sent soldiers to force the American rebels to stay loyal to Britain. They were met with fierce resistance. In July 1775 the Americans appointed George Washington as the leader of their army – he would go on to become their first President and have the capital city named after him.

A year later, in July 1776, Congress met again and formally declared themselves independent from Britain (see Source C).

### America wins

After over five years of bitter fighting, in which thousands of soldiers from both sides died, the Americans finally won. When he found out about the defeat, the British Prime Minister at the time (Lord North) broke down and cried. The 13 colonies then joined together to form the United States of America. They even got themselves a new flag (see Source E)! In 1789 this new independent country appointed its first President, George Washington. And so this valuable colony was lost by Britain forever!



**SOURCE D:** The leader of the British Army, Lord Cornwallis, surrendering to the leader of the American Army, General George Washington, in October 1781.

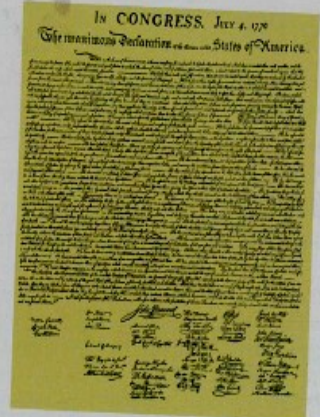


**SOURCE E:** The first ever flag of the USA was made up of 13 stars and 13 stripes – to symbolize the 13 colonies.

### FACT What about Canada?

America broke away from British rule in 1776 – but the colonies to the north, in what we now call Canada, stayed part of the British Empire. These huge colonies, such as Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, remained a key part of the Empire for nearly a century – until they achieved 'self-government' (the right to run most of their own affairs) in 1867.

## WISE-UP Words revolution



**SOURCE C:** The Declaration of Independence, signed 4 July 1776, which is now known as Independence Day.

## Work

- Imagine you are an angry American in 1773. Write to your cousin in Britain explaining why Americans are unhappy with the British government, and what the Boston Tea Party was all about!
- Look at Source B.
  - Who or what is the 'old lady' who 'lived over the sea'? Who is the 'daughter'?
  - Write out the two lines that refer to the Boston Tea Party.
- Write down what happened in America in each of the following five years: 1773; 1774; 1775; 1776; 1781.
- Americans today call the Declaration of Independence one of their 'founding documents'. What do you think this means?

### MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

- Can you explain why the first US flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes?



## DEPTH STUDY

### INDIA

In 1497 a Portuguese explorer called Vasco da Gama discovered how to get to India by sea. Soon many European countries were sending ships to India to trade. At first the ships simply reached an Indian port, bartered or swapped their goods with local traders for silk, spices, cotton or tea, and brought these back to their own country to sell for a big profit. After a few years, and with the permission of local Indian rulers, the traders began to set up permanent trading stations. These were large warehouses surrounded by huge fences and guarded by men with guns. All the goods were stored in the warehouse and this was where all the trading took place. Sometimes the traders lived there with their families too.

## 2: An Indian takeaway

### MISSION OBJECTIVES

- To find out how 'trading' worked... and how one of the world's best-known trading companies came to dominate India by the 1850s.

### The East India Company

The British, French and Dutch were the main countries with trading stations in India in the early years, but the Danish and Portuguese traded there too (see Sources A and B).

The British trading stations in India were all run by one company – the East India Company. Set up in 1600, it had been sending ships all over the world for years. The ships sailed full of cheap British goods, and swapped them for goods in countries as far away as Japan and China. Then they brought the fine china, silk, coffee and spices back to Britain to sell for a huge profit. Both the businessmen in charge of the company, and the kings and queens to whom they paid taxes, made a fortune from this trade (see Source C).

### FACT

#### India itself

Today, India is a single, independent country. However, when the British first started trading there, people used the word 'India' to mean the present-day countries of Pakistan, Burma (also known as Myanmar), Bangladesh and Sri Lanka too. The British gave the name India to the whole lot!



↑ SOURCE A: India's trading ports – and the European nations who founded them.

↓ SOURCE B: This is the British trading station at Bombay in 1731.



Stage 1: Get a group of rich businessmen together... and buy a ship.



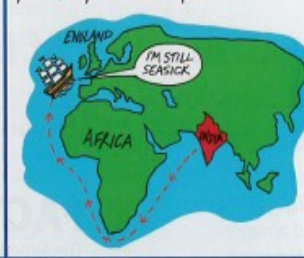
Stage 4: Unload the goods at the trading station – and swap them for things that are cheap and easy to get in India but hard to get in Britain!



Stage 2: Load the ship with goods wanted in India – guns, ammunition, swords, tools, buttons and shoes.



Stage 5: Sail back to Britain with your fully loaded ship.



Stage 3: Sail to India.



Stage 6: Sell the Indian goods in Britain – for far more than you paid for the British goods you swapped them for!



↑ SOURCE C: How to make a fortune from trade.

The East India Company first set up trading posts in India in Surat (1612), Madras (1638) and Bombay (1668). In the 1700s the East India Company began to take more and more Indian land. It had its own private army and navy and used them against the various regional rulers of India. At the Battle of Plassey in 1757, for example, around 3000 Company troops (2200 of whom were local Indians) defeated an Indian army of over 40,000 led by local prince Siraj-ud-Daulah (who was even helped by the French!). This allowed the East India Company to take over Bengal, the area formerly ruled by Siraj, and one of the richest parts of India. The Company fought against other European nations too – and took over their trading posts!



### The Company expands

Over the following decades, the various Indian princes and rulers were either beaten in battle or played off against each other, so that more and more of India came under British rule. In fact, by the mid-1850s most of India was controlled by the Brits... but a major rebellion, one that shocked the world, was just around the corner!

### Work

- What is a 'trading station'?
  - List the European countries that set up trading stations in India in the 1600s.
  - What was the East India Company?
  - Explain how this Company gradually took control of most of India.
- Create your own diagram, poster or leaflet explaining how Brits made money from trading with India. Use Source C to inspire you!

↓ SOURCE D: A picture of the East India Company's victory at Plassey. They were led by Robert Clive, a Company worker.

### MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

- Can you recall five facts about the East India Company?



## DEPTH STUDY

### INDIA

By the 1850s, most of India was ruled by the British. The East India Company had gradually taken more and more land and many of the British people who worked for the Company lived in great luxury in India and made huge fortunes. To help 'protect' them whilst out in India – and to make sure things ran smoothly – British soldiers were stationed all over India. The army recruited local Indians as soldiers to help them. However, on 10 May 1857, Indian soldiers (called '**Sepoys**') working for the Brits in Meerut (northern India) shot dead a number of British soldiers who worked with them. Soon the whole of northern India was engulfed in a ferocious fight between Brits and Sepoys. This is known as the Indian **Mutiny**... or the War of Independence! So what caused the uprising? How did the Brits respond? And why does the same event have different names?

## 3: Indian Mutiny... or a War of Independence?

### MISSION OBJECTIVES

- To understand how the events of 1857–1858 can be interpreted differently.

### Suffering Sepoys

According to Queen Victoria herself, the aim of the British Empire was to 'protect the poor natives and advance civilization'. In India, the Brits claimed that they were *improving* India (rather than exploiting it) by building railways, roads, schools and hospitals.

However, in the army, the Sepoys were a very unhappy bunch. They felt that they weren't treated very well, had little hope of promotion and were often the first to be sent to the most dangerous places. Some Sepoys also felt that they were being pressured into converting to Christianity.

This build-up of anger boiled over into rebellion in 1857, when a new rifle was delivered to the troops with a new method of loading the bullets. And it was these new bullets, and the **cartridges** that held them, that led to the start of the Empire's most bloody rebellion!

**FACT** **Hindus and Muslims**  
In the 1850s, the British Army in India was made up of 200,000 Sepoys (mainly Hindus and Muslims) and 40,000 British.

SOURCE A: Indian Sepoys in the British Army. ↗



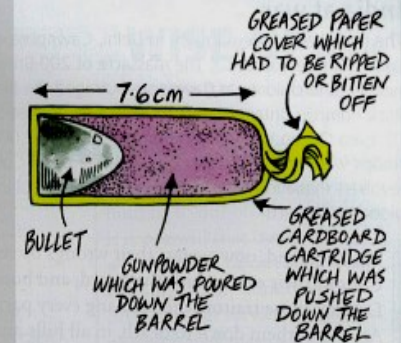
**FACT** **Not the first!**  
The Sepoy rebellion of 1857 was not the first rebellion in India. In 1806, in the town of Vellore in southern India, a rebellion broke out when the Brits banned Hindu Sepoys from wearing religious marks on their foreheads and made Muslim Sepoys shave their beards and trim their moustaches. After a day of violence (in which 200 British troops were killed or injured) the revolt was crushed, with over 800 rebels dying in the process.

### The spark

In January 1857, a new Enfield rifle was given to each Indian soldier. The bullet (which fired from the rifle) and the gunpowder that fired it were neatly packaged together in a cartridge (see Source B).

Loading the cartridge was a rather complicated affair. It involved biting off the top of the cartridge, pouring the gunpowder into the gun and then ramming the rest of the cartridge (with the bullet inside) down into the gun. The problem for the Hindu and Muslim Sepoys was that the new cartridges were covered in grease to make them slide down the gun barrel easily. And because the soldier had to bite off the top of the greasy cartridge in order to get to the gunpowder, it meant that the Sepoys got grease in their mouths. It was rumoured that the grease was made from animal fat, probably (but not definitely) a mixture of pork and beef fat – the worst possible mixture for Hindus and Muslims. After all, Hindus can't eat beef because to them a cow is sacred... and Muslims are forbidden to eat pork!

The Sepoys objected to the new cartridges – but were largely ignored. And when 85 Sepoys refused to use the cartridges they were arrested and sent to jail for ten years. Days later, other Sepoys rioted in support of their imprisoned comrades – and soon the whole of northern India was engulfed in rebellion.



SOURCE B: An Enfield rifle cartridge.

### Work

- What is a Sepoy?
- Copy the diagram in Source B. Underneath write a short explanation of what a cartridge is.
  - Carefully explain what caused the 1857 rebellion. You need to include what the British did in January 1857 – and why Hindu and Muslim Sepoys objected so strongly.



SOURCE C: The Siege of Lucknow. British soldiers in Lucknow (northern India) were surrounded and attacked by Indian rebels on 1 July 1857. The siege finally ended when support for the British arrived in November.



## India at war

The main battles were fought in Delhi, Cawnpore and Lucknow (see Source C). The massacre of 200 British women and children at Cawnpore outraged the British. Back home in Britain crowds bayed for blood (see Source D). Even Queen Victoria was horrified. Soon, 70,000 fresh troops were sent to India armed with the latest Colt revolvers made in America. And revenge was violent, bloody and swift!

When some Muslim mutineers were captured they were sewn into pig skins before they were hanged, whilst others were forced to clean up blood by licking it off the floor. One British soldier wrote of a giant tree with 130 Sepoys hanging from its branches. Especially horrible was the British punishment of being blown from the barrel of a gun – captured rebels were strapped to cannons, which were then fired! (see Source E).

'And England, now avenge their wrongs by vengeance deep and dire,  
Cut out their cancer with the sword, and burn it out with fire,  
Destroy those traitor regions, hang every pariah hound,  
And hunt them down to death, in all hills and cities around.'

↪ **SOURCE D:** A British poem by Martin Tupper, written at the time of the Mutiny.



↪ **SOURCE E:** A painting showing the brutal punishment of rebel Sepoys.



↪ **SOURCE F:** Lakshmibai, the Rani (Queen) of Jhansi, an area of northern India. Born in 1828, she lost much of her land to the British and fought against them in 1857. She died during the Battle of Gwalior in June 1858 (although her body was never found). Even the British said of her that she was 'remarkable for her beauty, cleverness and determination' and had been 'the most dangerous of the rebel leaders'. She is referred to often today as India's Joan of Arc and there are two bronze statues of her in Jhansi and Gwalior. The Indian National Army even named its first female unit after her!

**FACT** All Sepoys? The majority of Sepoys took part in the rebellion – but not all of them. Thousands, including the Gurkhas, the Sikhs and the Pathan regiments, remained loyal to the Brits. Even today the Gurkhas who fight in the British Army have an astonishing reputation for loyalty to it!

## The end... and after

Peace was finally declared on 8 July 1858, but the 'mutiny' had shocked the British. For a long time it had looked as if the British might be defeated – and politicians were taken aback by the ferocity of feeling that had been shown against the British in India.

After the mutiny, the British were a lot more careful about how they governed India. They still wanted India as part of the Empire (of course), but the running of the country was taken away from the East India Company and replaced with direct rule by the British Government. A new government department (the India Office) was set up and a **viceroy** was put in charge of India on behalf of Queen Victoria herself.

Before the mutiny, the British policy in India was to introduce British ideas about religion and education – which threatened the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh ways of life. After 1858, the British tried to interfere less with religious matters, and started to allow Indians more say in the running of India by allowing them jobs in local government. Even Queen Victoria commented on the new way of running India (see Source G). However, by 1900, nine out of ten jobs running the country were still done by Brits.

## What's in a name?

Historians like to give names to different periods of time (the Ice Age, the Middle Ages, the Tudor period and so on) and to different events (the Peasants' Revolt, the English Civil War) – but no one seems to be able to agree over what to call the events of 1857–1858. At the time in Britain it was known as the 'Indian Mutiny' or the 'Sepoy Rebellion'. It is often still called this in Britain today. However, for Indians and Pakistanis today, it is referred to as 'The War of Independence' or the 'Great Rebellion'. It is looked upon as the first episode in the great struggle against the British for a free India. Indeed, in 2007 the Indian and Pakistani governments celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Rebellion of 1857 with special events and ceremonies. On the official Indian government website, it is called 'The Great Rebellion' and is contained in a section entitled 'The Indian Freedom Struggle' (see Source H).

'The Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs and all the other brave sons of India fought shoulder to shoulder to throw out the British.'

↪ **SOURCE H:** A quote from the official Indian government website, [india.gov.in](http://india.gov.in).

'1857 was a pivotal point in Indian history... the better educated Indians who emerged from English-speaking schools in India, and who had learned about political parties, strikes and protest marches when they were in these schools, used these new methods against the British to gain their freedom. Had 1857 not happened, modern Indian history might have taken a quite different course.'

↪ **SOURCE I:** Based on a BBC interview with author William Dalrymple, September 2006.

## WISE-UP Words

cartridge mutiny  
Sepoy viceroy

'We hold ourselves bound by the same obligations of duty which bind us to our other subjects... so it is our will that our subjects of whatever race or creed, be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability and integrity, duly to discharge.'

↪ **SOURCE G:** Queen Victoria's Proclamation to India, November 1858.

## Work

- a In what ways did the British punish the Indian mutineers?

b Why do you think the punishments were so brutal?
- a Who was Lakshmibai?

b Why do you think she is regarded as a hero in India today?
- a How did the British change the way India was governed as a result of the events of 1857?
- a Look at Source G.

a What is Queen Victoria saying should happen in India?

b By 1900, had her wishes been carried out?
- a Why do you think British politicians at the time called the events of 1857 the 'Indian Mutiny'?

b Why do you think Indians today call the same event 'The First War of Independence'?

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

- Can you write from two different points of view?
- What would a British Government official say about the Indian Mutiny... and what would an Indian Sepoy say?



# 5.1A What was the slave trade?

During the 1600s, Britain became a powerful trading nation. Goods such as sugar, cotton and tobacco flooded into the country and items made in Britain were shipped to faraway places. Many British people became rich as a result of this. But there was a dark side to this trade... the trade in human beings. So how exactly did the 'slave trade' work? How, and why, did it start? And to what extent was Britain involved?

## Mission Objectives

- Investigate how the slave trade was organized.
- Assess Britain's role in the slave trade.

## What is 'trade'?

'Trade' means to buy and sell 'goods'. And it's possible for people (traders) to make a fortune from 'trading'. Trading had been big business for years before the 1700s – British ships carried British goods (like wool, corn and chains) to other countries and sold them. Then traders loaded their ships with goods that were popular in Britain (like tea, sugar, tobacco and cotton) and sold them to the British.

## So what was the 'slave trade'?

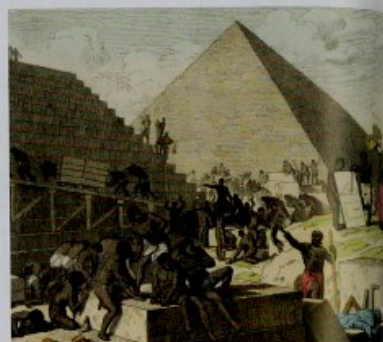
The slave trade is when human beings are bought and sold (instead of goods). The idea of slavery is a very old one. For thousands of years, men have captured 'weaker' people, treated them as their own property and forced them to do their work. The Egyptians used slaves to build the pyramids (see **Source A**) and the Romans forced slaves to fight in gladiator arenas for entertainment. But from around 1500 onwards, slavery turned into a profitable international business that earned people millions, but forced others to move to the other side of the world and live their lives as slaves.

## Why were the slaves needed?

In the 1500s, lots of people left Europe to settle in the newly discovered continents of North and South America. Many were farmers who grew crops that were very popular in Europe – like cotton, tobacco, sugar and coffee – and they sold them for high prices. To begin with, some farmers forced local tribesmen to do the farming for them, but some local tribes ran off, and others died out from disease or cruelty (see **Source B**). And when they ran out of local slaves, the European settlers had to go elsewhere to find new ones: Africa.

## The slave trade triangle

African slaves ended up in North and South America and the West Indies as a result of a three-legged trading journey known as the **slave trade triangle** (see **Source C**).



**SOURCE A:** Slaves being used in Ancient Egypt to build the pyramids.



**SOURCE B:** An image from 1595 showing Spanish settlers slaughtering or capturing natives in South America to work as slaves.

**SOURCE C:** The slave trade triangle.

**1** In Europe (in Britain, Spain or France, for example) a group of rich businessmen would get together and buy (or rent) a ship.

**2** They load the ship with goods popular in Africa – cloth, guns, iron pots and pans, cheap bracelets, swords, kettles, alcohol – and set sail.

**3** They sail the loaded ship to the African coast.

**4** They unload the ship and exchange the goods for captured slaves. The slave trader swaps a cheap load of goods for something that is really needed in the Americas... slaves.

**5** The ship is loaded with the slaves and they are taken on a two-month journey across the Atlantic Ocean. The second part of the ship's journey is known as 'The Middle Passage'.

**6** Once the slaves arrive in North America, South America or the West Indies, they are cleaned up and sold to farmers.

**7** The slaves go off to work for the farmers and the slave traders will buy a load of sugar, cotton or tobacco and load it onto their empty ship.

**8** The loaded ship then completes the third part of its journey back to Europe. The whole journey might take six months.

**9** The slave traders sell their cargo to the cotton-wearing, sugar-loving, tobacco-smoking public... and make another huge profit.

## Work

- In your own words, explain the difference between 'trade', 'slave' and the 'slave trade'.
  - Why did European settlers in North and South America and the West Indies want slaves?
  - EITHER:** Explain how the slave trade was organized in your own words.
- OR:** Create a diagram or poster explaining how the slave trade worked.
- Why was the slave trade so profitable?
  - The slave trade is often referred to as 'triangular trade' or 'the slave triangle'. How do you think it got its name?



## 5.1B What was the slave trade?

### When did the British get involved?

From the 1560s onwards, British traders got involved in the slave trade. One slave trader, John Hawkins, made so much money that he asked Queen Elizabeth I herself if he could include his new money-making scheme on his family's coat of arms! **Source A** shows his family crest. Today, Hawkins is sometimes called 'the father of the slave trade'.

### Slaves on British farms in America

In the 1600s, thousands of British people left Britain to settle in America. In fact, at this time much of the eastern side of America was run by the British. The settlers were mainly farmers, growing tobacco, cotton and other crops. Historians think that the first slaves to work on the settlers' farms over in America arrived from Africa in 1619 (see **Source B**). In total, around 11,000 British ships took millions of slaves to America.

### How profitable was slavery?

Britain wasn't the only European nation to get involved in slavery... but Britain made some of the largest profits. And all sorts of people were involved. Queen Elizabeth I, for example, was a business partner of John Hawkins – and King Charles II was a partner in the Royal African Company, a slave trading business that transported 60,000 slaves from Africa between 1680 and 1688. Many of the slaves were **branded** with the letters 'DY' when they were captured – after the man who ran the company, James, Duke of York (King Charles II's brother, who later became King James II).



**SOURCE A:**  
John Hawkins'  
coat of arms.

**SOURCE B:** African slaves being brought ashore in America, 1619.



**SOURCE C:** A 1634 painting of Princess Henrietta, the youngest daughter of King Charles I of England. Black servants, brought to England as slaves, often appeared in paintings at this time. In some paintings they are grouped with the family's pets or horses, a sign of their status in the house.



### Slavery in Britain

An estimated three million African slaves were bought and sold between the early 1600s and 1807, generating profits of about £12 million (equivalent to more than £1 billion today). This money made Britain one of the richest and most powerful nations in the world. Many of the fine buildings in Liverpool and Bristol (and also London to some extent) were built on the profits of slavery (see **Source D**). Even Penny Lane – the Liverpool street made famous by the 1967 Beatles' hit – is thought to have been named after a slave ship owner named James Penny! And in 1785, a well-known British actor, George F. Cooke, said, 'Every brick in the city of Liverpool is cemented with the blood of a slave.'

In fact, many Britons played a significant part in the slave trade – ship owners (who allowed their ships to be used), bankers (who lent them the money), investors (who shared in the profits) and importers (who brought in the goods that slaves farmed). Yet Britain's link to slavery goes even further. For example, the world-famous National Gallery in London received its first major donation of paintings from a man who had built up his art collection with the money he made from slave dealing. And several men who ran the Bank of England in the early years were involved in slavery too.

*'If our slave trade had gone,  
There's an end to our lives,  
Beggars all we must be,  
Our children and wives.'*

**SOURCE E:** A well-known rhyme of the 1700s.

### Be a Top Historian

Top historians know how important **sources** are when finding out about the past. Sources are like clues that can tell us about the past, for example; how people used to live, what they did or what they thought about different things.



### Wise Up Words

branded slave trade triangle



**SOURCE D:** Liverpool Town Hall (opened in 1754) was paid for by Liverpool businessmen who had made money from the slave trade. In fact, 20 of Liverpool's mayors between 1787 and 1807 are thought to have been slave traders.

### Work

- 1 Make a list of ways Britain was linked to the slave trade. The links could be through the Royal Family, British cities, slave traders or bankers, for example.
- 2 Look at **Source A**. Whose coat of arms was this and why do you think he decided to add a slave at the top of the shield?
- 3 Look at **Source C**. Why do you think Princess Henrietta wanted the slave included in her portrait?
- 4 Look through the text to find the quote from George F. Cooke. What do you think he meant?
- 5 Look at **Source E**. In your opinion, is the writer of this rhyme for or against the slave trade? Give reasons for your answer.



## 5.5A Why was slavery abolished?

In 1807, the British Parliament did a remarkable thing – it **abolished** the slave trade (see **Source A**). In other words, it made it illegal to buy and sell slaves... but people were allowed to keep the slaves they already owned! In 1833, Parliament banned slave ownership too – not only in Britain but throughout the **British Empire**. So why did Parliament do this? Why was slavery – a business that made so much money for so many people – banned? And what were the most important factors that played a part in ending slavery?

### Mission Objectives

- Explain when both slave trading and slave ownership ended in Britain and the Empire.
- Outline the different factors that contributed to the abolition of slavery.
- Prioritize the different factors that led to the abolition of slavery.

### The beginning of the end

Britain had been involved in the slave trade for hundreds of years. It was not illegal to make money from it and all sorts of people were involved. Even King Charles II was a partner in a slave trading business! But some people felt slavery was wrong – and by the late 1700s a campaign had been started to get the slave trade banned. This 'anti-slavery' group was very important – but was slavery banned *just* because of this group... or were there other reasons why it ended? Your challenge is to look through the following factors very carefully and try to form your own thoughts on what might answer the question 'Why was slavery abolished?'

### Factor No.1: Slavery wasn't making as much money as it used to

Some people have argued that the decision to get rid of slavery was made easier for Parliament because the slave trade wasn't making as much money as it used to. In the 1770s, the price of sugar dropped and many British plantations in the West Indies couldn't make a profit and closed down. And with fewer plantations, there wasn't the need for as many slaves. In 1771, plantation owners in Barbados bought 2728 slaves from Africa. The following year they bought none! So with fewer people making enormous profits, there were fewer people to argue in favour of keeping the slave trade. Also, some people claimed that slaves didn't work as hard as people who got paid for their work. They said slaves had no reason to work as hard as possible because they didn't get extra rewards or bonuses. Some people argued that it wasn't good business to have slaves working for you who didn't care about their jobs (see **Source B**).



**SOURCE A:** In 2007, a special edition £2 coin was made to commemorate the abolition of the slave trade. Have you ever had one of these coins?

'The work done by slaves, though it appears to cost only their maintenance [food and shelter], is in the end the most expensive of any. A person who can gain no property can have no other interest but to eat as much and to work as little as possible. Whatever work he does... can be squeezed out of him by violence only.'

**SOURCE B:** What the famous economist Adam Smith thought about slavery in 1776.

### Factor No.2: Slaves helped end slavery!

Other people have argued that it was the actions of the slaves themselves that led to the end of slavery. In 1791, the slaves on Saint-Domingue, a French colony in the Caribbean, rebelled, killed the white plantation owners and set fire to the sugarcane fields. Led by the inspirational slave Toussaint L'Ouverture, they managed to keep control of the island despite attacks from both French and British soldiers.

In 1804, the island was renamed Haiti, declared independent and outlawed slavery. Plantation owners throughout the West Indies were terrified that the rebellion would spread and their crops would soon be in flames. White slave owners had argued that Africans were inferior to Europeans and that their natural position was to be following orders and doing simple, manual work. What had happened in Haiti had proved to many people that this argument was wrong.

**SOURCE C:** The slaves of Saint-Domingue revolting against their French masters. Saint-Domingue was soon renamed Haiti by the former slaves who took control of the island.



### Wise Up Words

abolish British Empire

### Work

- 1 Write a sentence explaining what the word 'abolish' means.
- 2 What's the difference between the anti-slavery law passed in 1807 and the one passed in 1833?
- 3 a Look at **Source C**. What do you think is happening?  
b The BBC named Toussaint L'Ouverture as an 'unsung hero of abolition'. Why do you think it gave him this title?

### Be a Top Historian

Top historians know that complex events, such as the end of slavery, have a number of complex **causes** (or factors). Sometimes causes are not equally important (that's for you to judge), but the causes of an event are often linked.



## 5.5B Why was slavery abolished?

### Factor No.3: Black people proved the racists wrong!

There were all sorts of people – doctors, businessmen, lawyers – who thought that slavery was perfectly acceptable. In fact, some said that slavery was a good thing because it gave Africans something useful to do – and it meant that they could be taught about Christianity at the same time (see **Sources A, B and C**).

'Look at the Negro, so well known to you. Is he shaped like any white person? Is the anatomy of his frame or his muscles, or his organs like ours? Does he walk like us? Not in the least. What a hatred the white people have for him. Can the blacks become civilized? I should say not.'

**SOURCE B:** Adapted from *The Races of Men* by Dr Robert Knox, 1850.

But slaves who lived in Britain (who had been brought here by slave traders) got a chance to prove the racist attitudes wrong! In Britain, there were no laws that said slavery was illegal... but there were no laws to say it was *legal* either. So some slaves, helped out by lawyers who were against slavery, went to court to claim their freedom. More and more judges, impressed by the slaves' arguments, allowed them to go free. And some former slaves went even further.

One former slave, Olaudah Equiano, campaigned tirelessly to convince British people that the slave trade was wrong. He had been taken from his home in Africa to Barbados when he was just 11 years old. He worked as a servant to a ship's captain, travelled widely, and learned to read and write while staying in England. He was then taken to North America and sold once more but, through incredible hard work and patience, he bought his freedom and moved back to Britain, where he wrote his life story and got married. This was widely read and turned many people in Britain against slavery. The fact that he was clearly intelligent and articulate made a nonsense out of the claims that Africans were inferior and only good for manual work.

'The negroes of Africa, when they are in Africa, are useless. They never improve themselves or learn about art or science. The only way to improve them is to make them useful and happy by making them work hard.'

**SOURCE A:** Adapted from a letter published in *Gentleman's Magazine*, 23 April 1789.

'God says that slavery is right, so it is wrong to stop it. It makes the African happy, so it would be cruel to end it.'

**SOURCE C:** Written by a Scottish lawyer in 1790.



**SOURCE D:** Equiano's tales of cruelty and inhumanity changed the attitudes of many people in Britain towards the slave trade.

### Factor No.4: The anti-slavery campaigners

Some people believe it was the actions of religious Europeans that ended slavery. Granville Sharp, for example, helped former slaves in court cases against their old masters and helped bring the injustice of slavery to the British public's attention. In 1787, a group of 12 Christian men, including William Wilberforce, formed a group to fight for abolition. Wilberforce was an MP and made speeches against slavery in Parliament. Thomas Clarkson collected together evidence of the horrors of the **Middle Passage** and the treatment that slaves faced. The campaigners, who all believed that slavery went against the teachings of Christ, then used this evidence to collect huge petitions from the public.

'The grand object of my parliamentary existence is the abolition of the slave trade. Before this great cause all others dwindle in my eyes. If it pleases God to honour me so far, may I be the instrument of stopping such a course of wickedness and cruelty as never before disgraced a Christian country.'

**SOURCE F:** From the writings of William Wilberforce, 1796.

**SOURCE G:** The pottery manufacturer Josiah Wedgwood was a supporter of the campaign to abolish slavery and a good friend of Thomas Clarkson. In 1787, he began producing these small pottery medallions to convince people that slavery was wrong. Over 200,000 were made in total and the logo 'Am I not a man and a brother?' appeared on dinner plates, brooches and brooches.



#### FACT!

When slave ownership ended in the British Empire in 1833, the government paid out £20 million to former slave owners for their 'loss of property'. And the list of people who received compensation was very interesting – the Bishop of Exeter, for example, received over £12,000 for the loss of 665 slaves he owned with his business partners in the West Indies!

### Wise Up Words

Middle Passage



**SOURCE E:** William Wilberforce is buried in Westminster Abbey, London. Here, Queen Elizabeth II lays a wreath on a statue of him to commemorate 200 years since the abolition of slavery in 2007.

### Work

1 Look at **Sources A, B and C**.

- What is meant by the term 'politically incorrect'? You might want to discuss this with a partner or with the class.
- Make a list of all the politically incorrect attitudes you can find in these sources.
- Do you think these attitudes might explain the way slaves were treated? Explain your answer.

2 a Write down these three statements as headings:

- 'Slavery was abolished because it wasn't making as much money as it used to.'
- 'The slaves themselves ended slavery.'
- 'Religious campaigners in Britain brought an end to the slave trade.'

Under each heading, write down all the evidence you can find on pages 88–91 to support the statement.

- So, in your opinion, why do you think Britain ended its role in the slave trade? Write an extended answer, making sure you explain what you think were the most important reasons.

3 Look at **Source G**. Design your own medallion that campaigns for the abolition of slavery. Remember to include an eye-catching image and slogan. Perhaps plan this activity in a small group or with a partner.



# 2.1A Why did the Great War start?

You can go to almost any town or village in Britain and see the names of dead soldiers, sailors and air crew carved on stone memorials like the one in **Source A**. This one was built to commemorate 60 ex-students of Castle High School, Dudley in the West Midlands, who died during the Great War of 1914–1918. It is outside the school's library. Many schools, factories, sports clubs, and town councils built memorials like this to record the names of young men who had died fighting for their country. So what caused this war? Why was it called the 'Great War'? And why were so many men so keen to join up to fight?

## What was so 'great'?

The Great War wasn't 'great' because men enjoyed themselves and had a great time; it was called the Great War because the world had never experienced such a big war before. Millions and millions of men, split into two sides (or **alliances**), spent over four years killing each other. To help them in their task, they used the deadliest weapons the world had ever seen. In total, around nine million people were killed – that's over 5000 deaths every day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, for over four years. Such was the horror felt at this enormous **death toll** that many called it 'the war to end all wars'. So just how did the Great War start?

## Long-term causes

Wars usually have a number of different causes that build up over time. Some causes go back a very long time indeed, perhaps years or decades. But some causes may have happened only recently, in the last few days, weeks or months. Historians like to divide the reasons why something happened into **long-term** and **short-term** causes. The cartoons, maps and explanations on page 25 outline the long-term causes of the Great War.

## Wise Up Words

alliance arms race assassinate death toll  
long-term cause short-term cause Triple Alliance Triple Entente

## Mission Objectives

- Define and identify short- and long-term causes of the Great War.
- Explain how an assassination led to the outbreak of war.



**SOURCE A:** As well as ex-pupils, the memorial includes the name of a teacher who joined up to fight in September 1914. He was killed in action in France two years later, aged 31.

## Hungry for More?

Where is the nearest Great War memorial to you? Is it close enough for you to walk to it? Maybe your school has a memorial like Castle High School, Dudley. If so, why not go and visit it and read through the list of names? Are there any names that are the same as yours or your friends'? You can research some of the names and details of how they died on [www.cwg.org](http://www.cwg.org).

What could so many countries fall out about? And why did so many young men volunteer to join the slaughter?

## Nationalism

At the beginning of the twentieth century, people started to take great pride in their countries. This is called 'nationalism' – thinking that your nation is better than others. Unfortunately, for many leaders of Europe, the best way to prove they were the best was to have a war with their rivals.



## Militarism

People took great pride in their armies and navies. To make sure that theirs were the best, countries spent more and more money on bigger and bigger armies (known as 'militarism'). Nobody wanted the smallest army, so countries got caught up in an **arms race**. To many, there was no point in having a big, expensive army if you weren't going to use it, and whenever countries fell out the temptation to use those weapons was always there.



## Imperialism

Britain had conquered lots of land all over the world by 1914 and had a huge empire. But other nations wanted big empires too – a desire known as 'imperialism' (from the word 'empire'). The race to gain control of other nations, particularly in Africa, led to tension and fierce rivalries among European countries. They began to see each other as a threat to their overseas possessions and thought war was the only way to remove this threat permanently.



**SOURCE B:** The Alliance System.



## Alliances

As each country began to feel threatened, they looked for friends to back them up in a war – known as allies. Europe split into two alliances. Britain, France and Russia formed the **Triple Entente**, and Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed the **Triple Alliance**. The idea was to put people off starting a war as it would mean fighting against three nations instead of one. Although this made them feel more secure, it meant it would only take one small disagreement between any two nations involved and all of Europe would be dragged into a war.

## Work

- Write a sentence that defines the following terms: • arms race • allies.
  - Copy the terms from **List A** into your book and match them to the correct definitions from **List B**.

### List A

- militarism • alliances
- imperialism • nationalism

### List B

- Groups of nations that agree to back each other up in a war.
- To love your country and think it is superior to others.
- To take great pride in your country's armed forces.
- To gain control of land and people around the world and build an empire.

- Look at **Source B**.

- Make a list of the countries in i) the Triple Alliance ii) the Triple Entente.
  - If the Triple Alliance attacked France, how could Russia's friendship help France?
  - If Austria-Hungary attacked Russia, how could France's friendship help Russia?
  - If Russia attacked Germany, how could Austria-Hungary's friendship help Germany?
- Some historians have compared Europe in 1914 to two groups of mountain climbers, all tied together with one rope.
    - If one of the climbers slipped and fell, what's the best thing that could happen?
    - If one of the climbers slipped and fell, what's the worst thing that could happen?

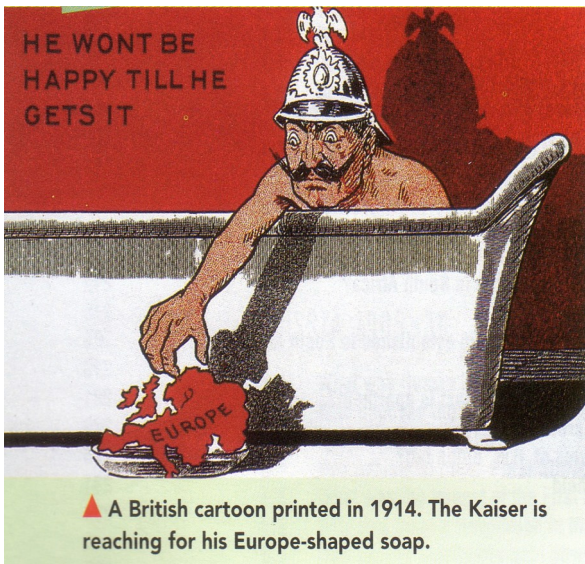


## Kaiser Wilhelm II – the basics

*Wilhelm was the last German emperor (Kaiser) and King of Prussia, whose bellicose policies helped to bring about World War One.*

Wilhelm was born on 27 January 1859 in Berlin, the eldest child of Crown Prince Frederick of Prussia and Victoria, daughter of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom. A difficult birth left Wilhelm with a withered arm, which he always tried to conceal. In 1881, after a period of military service, Wilhelm married Augusta Victoria, Princess of Schleswig-Holstein, and they had seven children.

In 1888, Wilhelm's father succeeded as Frederick III. He died shortly afterwards, making Wilhelm Kaiser at the age of 29. Although he had previously admired the great German statesman Otto von Bismarck, within two years Wilhelm had forced his resignation. He was a strong believer in increasing the strength of the German armed forces, particularly the navy. His policies towards Britain were contradictory. He alienated Britain with his naval expansion and a policy of aggressive German colonial expansion, and also supported the Boers in their fight against the British. But he was also closely related to the British royal family and was particularly fond of his grandmother, Queen Victoria.



Germany is a young and growing empire. She has world-wide trade which is rapidly expanding. Germany must have a powerful naval fleet to protect that trade and her many interests in even the most distant seas.

Who knows what might happen in the Pacific in the days to come. Look at the rise of Japan; think about the possible reawakening of China.

Only those powers that have great navies will be listened to with respect. It is only for that reason Germany must have a powerful fleet. It may be that England herself will be glad that Germany has a fleet when they speak together on the same side in the great debates of the future.

*Kaiser Wilhelm II being interviewed for a British newspaper in 1908.*

From the outset, the half-German side of him was at war with the half-English side. He was wildly jealous of the British, wanting to be British, wanting to be better at being British than the British were, while at the same time hating them and resenting them because he never could be

## Did a physical impairment effect Wilhelm's attitude and actions?

A traumatic breech birth left him with a withered left arm due to Erb's palsy, which he tried with some success to conceal. In many photos he carries a pair of white gloves in his left hand to make the arm seem longer, holds his left hand with his right, or has his affected arm on the hilt of a sword or holding a cane to give the effect of a useful limb posed at a dignified angle. Historians have suggested that this disability affected his emotional development. He was also bullied by his teachers and became aggressive and unstable – did this contribute to his aims for Germany?



**Awful Leadership before WWI – Weak or undemocratic governments were more likely to go to war. More democratic ones are less likely to go to war.** Remember also that at this time there was no idea of going to war for the 'right' reasons - many people at this time thought it was alright to go to war simply to win more power and territory for the ruler.

#### Germany

Germany was massively powerful, with the most up-to-date industry in the world. Germany had become a united country for the first time in 1870-1. At first, the Chancellor Otto von Bismarck was careful not to annoy other countries, but after 1890 the slightly-mad Kaiser Wilhelm II took over the government.

#### Turkey

A very weak despotism, ruled by a corrupt government. Turkey was known as 'the sick man of Europe'. Once, Turkey had ruled all of the Balkans, but now the peoples of that area were rebelling and driving the Turks out – this created a significant area of instability in Europe: 'the Balkan pressure-cooker'.

#### Austria Hungary

Had once been a strong empire, but now the government was weak and divided (the Austrians and the Hungarians hated each other). Austria-Hungary had been built up by marriage and diplomacy during the Middle Ages, and was known as the 'polyglot (many languages) empire' because of all the different races in it. The Habsburg rulers were stupid and inbred, and Emperor Franz Josef was old and autocratic.

#### Italy

A new country formed in 1866. A weak ruler, chaotic governments and a pathetic army. The Mafia and corruption everywhere.

#### Russia

Russia was huge but backward. Nicholas II was a weak and ineffectual ruler, dominated by his wife and the 'mad monk' Rasputin. He kept power by setting the Cossacks on the mob, and by his Okhrana (secret police). Russia lost a war to Japan disastrously in 1904.

#### France

France was a democracy, but the French government was weak. In 1870-1, when Germany was trying to become a united country, France had gone to war to try to stop it. The Germans won the war easily, and took the area of Alsace Lorraine from France. The French were desperate for revenge.

#### Britain

Britain was a democracy with a huge empire, but until 1900 Britain believed in 'splendid isolation' – keeping out of affairs in Europe. Neither do you want to go running away with the idea that Britain had an efficient or modern government. The army was still dominated by the aristocracy, Britain in 1900 did not have state unemployment pay, sick pay or old age pensions, and women were not given the vote until 1918.



**Explain why the aims and fears of the European countries lead countries into conflict in 1914. Bare in mind the MAIN causes and what other countries did, wanted or feared**

Britain	Russia	Germany	France
<p><b>1890s - 1904</b> - <i>'Splendid Isolation'</i> wanted to stay out of European affairs but they wanted to keep the 'Balance of Power' in Europe (if nothing changed it was good for Britain as we would stay strong). They were worried about the growing strength of Russia</p> <p><b>After 1904</b> they became increasingly worried about Germany's growing threat and ambition. <b>Main concern - preserving their status and vast empire</b></p>	<p>They grew increasingly worried about relations with Germany after Bismarck was removed from power. They were concerned with the Balkans region and had rivalries with both Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire all of whom they shared borders.</p> <p><b>Main concerns - Germany and their rivals</b></p>	<p><b>1871-1890</b> - <i>Otto von Bismarck used diplomacy expertly to keep on good terms with the great European powers</i></p> <p>Bismarck 'resigned' in 1890</p> <p><b>1890 - 1914</b> - <i>Kaiser Wilhelm allowed much of Bismarck's work to fall away being happy to create an atmosphere of rivalry and opposition rather than peaceful cooperation.</i></p> <p><b>Main concern - vulnerable position in Europe.</b></p>	<p>They wanted to expand the influence of their Empire, especially in Morocco.</p> <p>They were tremendously worried about the growing threat of Germany but also wanted revenge for the loss of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 and the subsequent loss of Alsace-Lorraine to the new German Empire. <b>Main concern - Germany</b></p>
Austria-Hungary	Belgium	Ottoman Empire	Italy
<p>A declining Empire in the period 1890 – 1914. Main concern - retaining their Empire and securing support for expansion in the Balkans. Rivalry with Russia in the east and Italy in the south (dispute over land).</p> <p><b>Main Concern - Keeping what they had and holding together their empire, rivalries with Russia and Italy.</b></p>	<p>They were concerned with staying out of European affairs and keeping out of war.</p> <p>Staying neutral if there was a war.</p> <p><b>Main concern - peace and their neutrality in any European war</b></p>	<p>The 'sick man of Europe' was an Empire on the wane and continued to lose territory and power in the 1912 Balkan War. They had a rivalry with Russia over territory and access to the Black Sea etc.</p> <p>They had their resources extremely weakened by the Balkan Wars in 1912/13 and were very vulnerable. <b>Main concern - keeping what they had left</b></p>	<p>Land disputes with Austria-Hungary and rivalry with France to the North-West</p> <p><b>Main concern - securing their position in Europe as a relatively new and young country</b></p>
<p><b>Balkan countries</b> - They had mainly secured independence between 1878 and 1913 and were keen to secure any relationships that help them establish themselves and to keep their hard fought independence. Main rivalries - Serbia and Austria-Hungary over Bosnia, all the Balkan countries and the Ottoman Empire.</p>			



## Depth Study

# 2.1B Why did the Great War start?

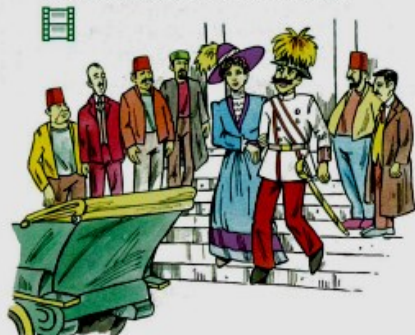
## The short-term reason

Some historians have compared Europe in 1914 to a barrel of gunpowder in that it only needed a spark to make the whole thing explode. On 28 June 1914 the spark arrived. All it took was the murder of one man and his wife and all of the major nations of Europe were plunged into war. So who was this man? How was he murdered and why? And how did his death lead to the Great War?

## 'Unhappy anniversary'

On 28 June 1914, the heir to the kingdom of Austria-Hungary – Archduke Franz Ferdinand – arrived in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo. It was his wedding anniversary, so he was joined on the visit by his wife, Sophie. Bosnia was part of Austria-Hungary – but only since 1908 when it had been conquered. Many Bosnians were still deeply unhappy about this. They wanted to join with their neighbours, Serbia, and many Serbians wanted Bosnia to join with them. One gang of Serbians, known as the 'Black Hand', decided to take drastic action to highlight their cause – they planned to **assassinate** the Archduke. His visit to Sarajevo was the perfect opportunity.

- 1 Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife arrived at Sarajevo train station at 9:28am. They were driven towards the Town Hall to meet the Mayor. Crowds lined the streets and the car drove slowly so that the royal couple could wave to the people.

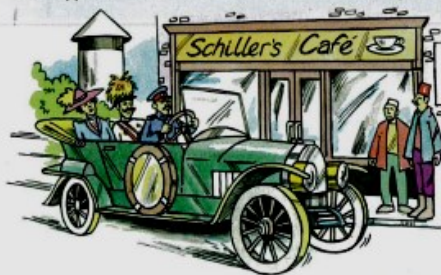


- 2 Six Black Hand assassins waited for the car by the Cumurja Bridge. As the open-topped car passed, one of the Serbians threw a bomb at the royal couple. The bomb ended up beneath the car behind and blew up, injuring several people.

The Archduke's car sped off to the Town Hall with a terrified Ferdinand inside.



- 3 The Archduke cancelled the rest of his visit, but decided to visit those injured by the bomb before he went home. At 11:00am, he again got into the chauffeur-driven car – but it drove a lot faster this time! As they passed Schiller's café, the driver was informed that he'd taken a wrong turn. He stopped to turn around.



- 4 After the bomb attack, the assassins had split up and run into the crowds. By coincidence, one of the gang – 19-year-old Gavrilo Princip – was standing outside the café. He took out a pistol, walked towards the car and fired two shots. Ferdinand was hit in the throat; his wife Sophie was shot in the stomach. Both were killed.



**SOURCE A:** Princip is thought to have been terminally ill with tuberculosis when he murdered Franz Ferdinand. He survived another four years – long enough to see the terrible consequences of his actions.



## FACT!

Italy didn't stick to the agreements it had made before the murder. Instead it joined Britain, France and Russia's side in 1915. In total, 32 countries joined the war and the major ones lined up like this:

**ALLIES:** Britain and its Empire • France • Belgium • Italy (from 1915) • Serbia • Romania (from 1916) • Portugal (from 1916) • Russia (until 1917) • USA (from 1917) • Japan

**VERSUS CENTRAL POWERS:** Germany • Austria-Hungary • Turkey • Bulgaria (from 1915)

## How did this murder lead to war?

Although the assassination was a terrible event, you might be wondering how this started a war. Read **Source B** carefully and you will discover that the murder started a countdown to the biggest war the world had ever known.

- 28 July: Austria-Hungary blames Serbia for killing the Archduke and attacks Serbia.
- 29 July: Russia, which has promised to protect Serbia against attack, gets its army ready to attack Austria-Hungary.
- 1 August: Germany, which supports Austria-Hungary, hears about Russian preparations for war. Germany declares war on Russia.
- 2 August: Britain prepares its warships.
- 3 August: Germany, which is more worried about the French army than about the Russians, decides to attack France first. It declares war on France, hoping to defeat the French quickly, and then on to face the Russians!
- 2 August: Germany asks Belgium to allow German soldiers to march through Belgium to attack France. Belgium says 'no'. Germany marches in anyway two days later. Britain, which has a deal to protect Belgium from attack (dating back to 1839), declares war on Germany.
- 6 August: Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.
- 12 August: Britain and France declare war on Austria-Hungary.

## ▲ SOURCE B: Timeline of events.

As **Source B** shows, the murder in Sarajevo on that Sunday morning in June 1914 started a whole chain of events that threw Europe into war – a war in which millions would die.

## Work

- 1 Imagine you were Franz Ferdinand's chauffeur on the day of the assassination. You have been called in as a witness by the police. Using the information from the cartoons, copy and complete this writing frame:

Crime:  
Date:  
Witness:  
The Archduke, Franz Ferdinand, was dressed in .....  
His wife was wearing .....  
As I approached the Cumurja Bridge .....  
The Archduke was furious so .....  
Shortly after 11:00am I drove past Schiller's café, when I .....  
It was just as I was reversing that .....  
I did my best to help, but .....

- 2 Look at **Source B**. Why did:
  - a Austria-Hungary attack Serbia?
  - b Russia attack Austria-Hungary?
  - c Germany invade Belgium?
  - d Britain declare war on Germany?
- 3 Did Gavrilo Princip start the Great War? Explain your answer carefully – you may want to discuss it and/or plan your answer with a partner first.



# A BASIC APPRAISAL OF THE MAIN CONTESTANTS 1914



## BRITAIN



- 1 Essentially a sea power, rather than a land power (due to Empire considerations).
- 2 Inexperienced in large European-style land operations.
- 3 Reliance placed upon cavalry rather than upon artillery.
- 4 Reliance placed upon rifle techniques rather than upon machine gunnery.
- 5 An 'amateur' army power, rather than a 'professional' army power.
- 6 An 'untapped' Empire at her disposal.

## GERMANY



- 1 The sole European nation to appreciate the importance of mortars, howitzers, and machine guns.
- 2 Appreciation of an efficient railway system to switch troops from west to east in the event of a 'two-front' war.
- 3 Foresight to back-up a front-line corps with a 'reserve' corps.
- 4 Active in scientific research.

## RUSSIA

WEAK AFTER DEFEAT BY JAPAN (RIOTS AND MUTINIES OF 1905).

## RUSSIA



- 1 Overwhelming in terms of potential man-power.
- 2 Weak in communications and in manufacturing munitions.
- 3 Poorly-led compared to her enemies.
- 4 Geographically isolated from her allies.
- 5 Confronted with a 'two-front' war situation (against Germany and Austria-Hungary).

## FRANCE



- 1 Population disadvantage with Germany in terms of a long war (potential 'call-up').
- 2 Possession of the best artillery gun in the world (the 75-mm.).
- 3 Expectation of a short war.
- 4 Reliance upon out-of-date forts.

## AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



- 1 Weakened by her racial structure, yet strengthened by her resolute Germanic and Magyar backgrounds.
- 2 Conscious of the need to defend a long frontier.
- 3 Army obsolescent in equipment.
- 4 Possessed by an offensive spirit.