



# Knowledge Organiser: Year 8 History

## How did the growth of British imperial power come at the expense of Native peoples?

### Who was the strongest power in 1558?

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- **England:** Elizabeth was the Queen of England which included Wales. Elizabeth prevented Spain from invading England using her navy (England becoming a significant naval power).
- **Spain:** the wealthiest European country because of its overseas Empire, controlling land in the Americas which was full of gold.
- **France:** focused on itself due to religious and civil wars within France; did little expansion in this period.
- **The Holy Roman Empire:** controlled all of modern day Germany, Czechia, Switzerland and Austria as well as land in modern day Poland and Italy; allied with Spain.
- **The Incan Empire:** largest Empire on earth in 1532; in 1532 the Spanish conquered the Inca and by 1558 much of the Empire was now controlled by the Spanish.
- **Ottoman Empire:** controlled trade between Europe and Asia until the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, making them very wealthy.
- **China (Ming dynasty):** population of around 160 million people with an army as large as 1 million men; so economically powerful they were able to build the Great Wall of China to defend from attacks.

### Elizabethans and the New World

2

- Spain did not allow other countries to trade with their colonies without a licence.
- Spanish control over new goods angered the English, who were jealous of Spain's wealth. 
- Famous English sailors who explored the New World and also plundered Spanish ships in the Americas were Francis Drake, Walter Raleigh and John Hawkins. 
- Elizabeth often paid for their sea voyages because of the money they earned for England.

### Early colonies in North America

3

#### Roanoke:

- First settlers found it hard to survive; constant fighting with the local Native Americans – they went home; no one knows what happened to the second group of settlers.
- The English were now determined to create a successful settlement in Virginia.

**NEVER GIVE UP**

#### Jamestown:

- Lots of problems: built on swamp land; men not able to fish and hunt to survive; many deaths through disease and conflict with Natives.
- Became a success because of tobacco.

### Colonisation of the West Indies

4

- British settlers claimed Barbados in 1625; sugar farming began on the island in the 1640s. 
- Cromwell wanted to build an empire for England – seized Jamaica from Spain in 1655 and defeated the Spanish in battle to win control of the island.
- Britain gained the island of St Vincent in 1763 from France as part of the treaty that ended the Seven Years War. 
- Trinidad became a valuable island due to cotton and sugar production; Britain seized the colony in 1797 and Spain surrendered it.
- Europeans forced the Taino people to work for them and those who refused were tortured or killed; many Native people were wiped out by new diseases; many Carib people were killed by the British.

#### Plymouth



- Settlers found it difficult to survive the winter (disease spread).
- Local Native called Squanto taught them to survive.

#### Early Relationship with Native Populations

- Many chiefs first thought the English could be valuable allies against Spanish raids and enemy tribes.
- Relations deteriorated as the colonists demanded more land.
- Outbreaks of war between English and Natives led to many Native people being slaughtered.
- European diseases ravaged Native populations, such as the Wampanoag.

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