Your notes

GCSE History: revision notes

Britain: Migration, empires and the people, c790–present

Contents

1. Conquest and settlement, c790–c1500
2. Expansion and empire, c1500–c1750
3. Expansion and empire, c1750–c1900
4. Britain in the 20th and 21st centuries
5. Key terms
6. Quick questions
7. What to do next

Conquest and settlement, c790–c1500

- Vikings raided from 793 (Lindisfarne) and later settled. The Normans conquered England in 1066. Under the Angevins, English kings ruled much of France, which was lost by the end of the Hundred Years' War (1453).

Expansion and empire, c1500–c1750

- Elizabethan sailors such as Drake and Raleigh explored and raided. The **East India Company** was founded in 1600, and the first lasting colony was Jamestown, Virginia (1607).
- Britain became a leading slave-trading nation, transporting enslaved Africans across the Atlantic.

Expansion and empire, c1750–c1900

- Britain lost the American colonies (1783) but gained an empire in India, ruled directly by the Crown after the **Indian Rebellion** (1857).
- The slave trade was abolished in 1807 and slavery in the empire in 1833. In the '**Scramble for Africa**', Britain took large areas; the Boer War (1899–1902) showed the costs of empire.

Britain in the 20th and 21st centuries

- India and Pakistan became independent in 1947, and most colonies followed in the 1950s–60s. The Commonwealth replaced the empire.
- Migrants from the Commonwealth, such as the Windrush generation (1948), helped rebuild Britain. Britain joined the EEC in 1973 and voted to leave the EU in 2016.

© LycoLearn · lycolearn.co.uk · Free GCSE and KS3 revision

Key terms

Angevin empire	The lands in England and France ruled by Henry II and his sons.
East India Company	The trading company that came to rule much of India.
Abolition	Ending the slave trade (1807) and slavery (1833) in the British Empire.
Indian Rebellion	The 1857 uprising, after which the Crown ruled India directly.
Scramble for Africa	The race by European powers to take African land.
Decolonisation	Colonies gaining independence.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. Where did the first big Viking raid take place, in 793?
2. When was the East India Company founded?
3. What was Britain's first lasting colony in America?
4. When did Britain abolish the slave trade?
5. What happened after the Indian Rebellion (1857)?
6. What was the Scramble for Africa?
7. When did India become independent?
8. What did the Windrush generation do?

Answers

1. Lindisfarne
2. 1600
3. Jamestown, Virginia (1607)
4. 1807
5. The Crown took direct control of India
6. The race by European powers to take African land
7. 1947
8. Came from the Caribbean to help rebuild Britain after the war

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.

Your notes