

# 8.1 The British Empire (In One Take)

## What was the Atlantic Slave Trade?

The Atlantic Slave Trade was a system of human trafficking that forcibly transported millions of Africans to the Americas as enslaved laborers from the 15th to the 19th centuries. It played a crucial role in the empire's economic growth and expansion.

British involvement began in the late 16th century and intensified in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Royal African Company, with a royal charter, held a monopoly on the English slave trade for a time. The British exchanged European goods for enslaved Africans in Africa and then sold them in the Americas, primarily the Caribbean and mainland North America.

The British Empire later became a prominent hub for the abolitionist movement, culminating in the abolition of the slave trade in 1807 and slavery itself in 1833. The legacy of the Atlantic Slave Trade continues to shape historical and contemporary discussions on race, economics, and social justice.

## Who was Pocahontas?

Pocahontas was a Native American woman known for her association with the English settlers at Jamestown, Virginia, in the early 17th century. She was a member of the Powhatan tribe, led by her father, Chief Powhatan.

Pocahontas is most famous for her interactions with the English colonists. She was kidnapped by colonists but later married an Englishman and travelled to England as a diplomat for Native Americans.

## Who was Nanny of the Maroons?

Nanny of the Maroons was a leader of a community of former enslaved Africans. This community fought the British colonists in Jamaica in a successful Guerrilla war which led the colonists to sign a peace treaty.

## How did America resist the British Empire?

The US led a revolutionary war against the British colonists from 1775-1783 under the command of General George Washington, which led to America declaring independence on July 4th 1776.

## What was the EIC?

The East India Company was a British trading company that played a significant role in the colonisation of India and other parts of Asia. The EIC had its own armed forces and came to control several parts of India. After the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and the Government of India Act in 1858, the company was nationalised, and control of India was handed over to the crown.

## How did British imperialism affect Australia?

The colonisation of Australia brought many civilians and convicts from Britain to Australia. The arrival of these colonists displaced Indigenous people, with many persecuted or kidnapped. This was justified as a mission to spread Christianity and to 'civilise' the nation.