Exploring the British Empire: Fact-File Template

Learning objective: To understand the expansion, influence, and impact of the British Empire during the Victorian era and beyond.

Join Ellie the Elephant as we look back into history! Use your textbook or research materials to fill in the sections below. Think carefully about how the British Empire connected different parts of the world and the impact this had on trade, culture, and people's lives.

Word bank: Colony · Commonwealth · Trade · Expansion · Industry · Globalisation · Empire · Influence · Raw materials

1. The Timeline of Expansion: Describe the peak of the British Empire and identify two continents where Britain held territories. (3 marks)

2. Trade and Resources: Explain why the British Empire sought to control trade routes and name two raw materials that were commonly transported to Britain. (3 marks)

3. Impact on Daily Life: Choose one country that was part of the British Empire and describe one way British influence changed life there (e.g., language, transport, or law). (3 marks)

4. Perspectives: Why might different people have felt differently about the growth of the British Empire? Consider the view of a British merchant versus a local person living in a colony. (4 marks)

5. Legacy Today: Name one way in which the history of the British Empire still affects the world today, such as the Commonwealth or the spread of the English language. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific historical figure from a former British colony who campaigned for independence. Write a short paragraph explaining their role and what they hoped to achieve for their country.