



Year 8 History Knowledge Organiser

History – The Industrial Revolution: *Boom! Bang! Build! The Age of Invention*

■ Core Knowledge

1. What sparked the Industrial Revolution and who wanted change?

- Causes: coal, steam power, inventions, urbanisation, capitalism
- Early factories, rural-to-urban migration, and growing industries

2. How did changes in transport empower—or exclude—people?

- Canals, steam trains, and improved roads
- Who benefited: industrialists and traders vs. the rural poor

3. Did inventors and reformers change the world—or just their own lives?

- Key figures: Stephenson, Arkwright, Brunel, and social reformers

4. Was the Industrial Revolution progress for everyone—or just the powerful?

- Growth vs inequality, child labour, urban poverty
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■ Power & Protest

5. How did women and children fight for fairer lives in factories?

- Factory Acts, strikes, education reforms
- Early activism and working-class voices




6. What does real progress look like—and who decides?

- Different perspectives on industrial change: owners, workers, reformers

7. Did the Industrial Revolution inspire future movements for change?

- Legacy of industrial reform on later civil rights and labour campaigns



 Key Vocabulary	 Common Misconceptions	 Key Questions
Industrialisation Urbanisation Factory Invention Coal Reformer Child labour Transport revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone benefited equally from industrialisation• Child labour was rare or illegal in the 1800s• The Industrial Revolution was a purely British success story• Reform happened quickly and easily	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Was the Industrial Revolution truly a time of progress—or of growing inequality?2. How did ordinary people resist unfair systems and demand change?3. In what ways can history inspire modern action and awareness?



History – Civil Rights & Abolition: *Voices for Freedom – The Fight for Justice and Equality*

■ Core Knowledge (Abolition & Early Civil Rights)

1. How did the fight to end slavery differ between the UK and the USA?

- UK: Legal abolition in 1833, campaigns by people like William Wilberforce

2. How did Jim Crow laws try to silence equality—and who resisted?

- Segregation laws in the American South after slavery

3. Who were the KKK—and how did people stand up against hate?

- Rise of white supremacist terror groups
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■ Key Turning Points in U.S. Civil Rights

4. **Brown v. Board of Education (1954)**

- Landmark case against school segregation

5. **Rosa Parks & the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955–56)**

- One act of resistance sparked a powerful, peaceful movement
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■ The Movement Evolves

6. How did civil rights activists turn peace into power?

- Sit-ins, marches, media pressure
- Role of youth and mass movements

7. Who was Malcolm X—and why did his message divide opinions?

- Nation of Islam, self-defence, Black pride
- Debate between non-violence and radical change




8. How did protest evolve in the 1960s—and why did it shift?

- From peaceful marches to Black Power
- Government response, public opinion, and media

9. What made protest effective: peace, pressure, or power?

- Case studies of success: Civil Rights Act (1964), Voting Rights Act (1965)



 Key Vocabulary	 Common Misconceptions	 Key Questions
Abolition Segregation Jim Crow KKK Non-violence Civil disobedience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slavery ended easily and immediately after abolition laws• The Civil Rights Movement was peaceful from start to finish• Malcolm X promoted violence (he promoted self-defence and Black empowerment)	<p>How did individuals and communities resist injustice—legally, peacefully, and powerfully? What strategies made the Civil Rights Movement effective?</p> <p>Is today's fight for equality a continuation of the past—or a new movement entirely?</p>



History – Empires: *The Sun Never Set... But Why?*

■ Core Knowledge

The British Empire: How did a small island rule the world?

- Britain controlled 1/4 of the globe by the 1800s
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■ British Empire in Depth

1. What is an empire—and how do people lose control of their lands?

- Definition of empire

2. Did explorers build empires or break boundaries?

- European exploration: trade, violence, “discovery” vs conquest

3. What made the British Empire powerful—and at what cost?

- Key features: military, naval power, global trade

4. Canada & Empire

- How Canada became part of the empire

5. India’s Journey from Loyalty to Resistance

- Sepoy Rebellion, Amritsar Massacre, Gandhi, independence

6. Aboriginal Peoples & Resistance

- Australian context: land, culture, stolen generations

7. What is the legacy of the British Empire—and who gets to decide?

- Museums, monuments, education, reparations
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■ Global Empires – Ottoman & Mongol

1. The Ottomans: How did they build an empire—and who did they include?

- Religion, tolerance, military conquest, trade

2. Why did the Ottoman Empire fall?

- Internal problems, nationalism, European pressure




3. Did WWI destroy the Ottomans or reveal their weaknesses?

- Ottoman Empire’s role in WWI

4. The Mongol Empire: How did they conquer so much, and what caused their fall?

- Expansion, terror, trade routes, internal collapse



 Key Vocabulary	 Common Misconceptions	 Key Questions
Empire Colony Imperialism Resistance Rebellion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The British Empire only brought benefits like railways and education• Colonised people were passive and did not resist• Empires always fell because of military defeat• Empire history is the same for everyone	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What made empires powerful—and what caused them to fall?2. How did people resist empire, and why do those stories matter?