

# Elizabethan Adventurers – key topic 5 knowledge organiser

**Imperialist** = wants to build empires and create colonies

**Explorer/adventurer** = wants to find new places and goods and make money from them



## Doctor John Dee:

### **Motivation:**

- Change the balance of power – Elizabethan England had been a small and isolated nation whilst Spain and Portugal claimed territories in Central and South America.
- 1577 presented this vision of a great empire, ruled by Elizabeth.
- Argued that Elizabeth should claim colonies in North America.
- Coined the term 'British Empire'.

### **Achievements:**

- Gave the Queen and English explorers a vision of an empire to rival that of Spain.
- Offered practical help to adventurers: knowledge of navigation.



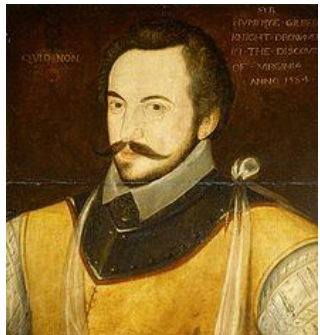
## Francis Drake

### **Motivation:**

- Daring Elizabethan adventurer.
- Plundered Spanish ships and attacked settlements in his voyages to the Caribbean.
- Sought opportunities for trade and plunder.

### **Achievements:**

- 1577 voyage to furthest parts of Spanish Empire: returned to England with ship packed full of vast quantities of pillaged treasure.
- Knighted on board the Golden Hind – infuriated the King of Spain.
- First Englishman so sail around the world.



## Humphrey Gilbert

### **Motivation:**

- Establish the first colony in North America
- Discover a north-west passage around America to provide England with a trade route to China.
- Driven by hatred of Catholic Spain.

### **Achievements:**

- First attempt at establishing a colony in 1579 was a disaster. Only the ship captained by his younger half brother Walter Raleigh managed to cross Atlantic.
- 1583 expedition – took possession of Newfoundland for Queen Elizabeth = first claim to territory in eastern North America but failed to establish a colony. Newfoundland was cold and barren, food was scarce. Tried to return home – Gilbert drowned.



## Walter Raleigh

### **Motivation:**

- Determined to pursue his half brother's dream of establishing a colony in America.
- Driven by possibility of discovering a sea route from Atlantic to the Pacific. Raleigh thought that America could be the gateway to the wealth of Asia.
- Hoped to discover gold in North America, bringing him and the country great riches.

### **Achievements:**

- 1585 – began preparations for the colony of Roanoke.
- Relations with Algonquian people deteriorated.
- 1586 – Fleet of ships led by Francis Drake came to rescue the colonists.

= FAILURE

But the English colonists had learned a lot.

In 1588 Thomas Harriot and John White – *Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*

## Ralph Fitch

### Motivation:

- Commissioned by the Turkey Company to find out about trade opportunities in India, South East Asia and if possible China.
- Wanted to persuade the Mughal Empire and China to trade with England.

### Achievements:

- 1583 - arrested and imprisoned as spies in the Portuguese trading post of Hormuz and taken across the Indian ocean to Goa. Amazed by what they saw in India – large diamonds for sale/ production of cotton and cloth, peppers, spices.
- Travelled through India, as far as the Himalayas and became the first Englishman to travel in Burma.
- He picked up valuable information about the sea trade with China and the Moluccas (Spice Islands). First Englishman to find out about the possibilities of trade with South East Asia.



## James Lancaster

### Motivation:

- Invested in the East India Company – this company was founded in 1600 and wanted to transform England's trade with the East.

### Achievements:

- In 1602, he established England's first factory (warehouse) in the East at Bantam on the island of Java. At last, English ships began to return from the East laden with spices.
- This was an important moment in world history - in the 17<sup>th</sup> C the East India Company would open many factories on the coast of India and go onto becoming the biggest trading company the world had ever known.

### TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

<b>1577</b> John Dee presented his vision of a 'British Empire'	<b>1577</b> Francis Drake set off sailing around the world	<b>1578</b> Queen Elizabeth gave Gilbert permission to claim territory in North America	<b>1579</b> Gilbert's first expedition ended in disaster	<b>1580</b> Francis Drake completed the first English circumnavigation of the world – Drake was knighted on board the 'Golden Hind'	<b>1580</b> Spain invaded Portugal – English feared spice trade in India would be disrupted	<b>1581</b> The Turkey Company was formed	<b>1583</b> Gilbert set sail again, claimed Newfoundland but failed to establish a colony	<b>1583</b> Ralph Fitch set off on a journey to India	<b>1583</b> Fitch was arrested by the Portuguese and taken to Goa (Portuguese colony)	<b>1584</b> Fitch travelled to the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar, northern India	<b>1585</b> Fitch arrived at Emperor Akbar's newly built palace – Fitch continued his journey east	<b>1588</b> Fitch reached the Portuguese port of Malacca but officials stopped him from going further.
<b>1584</b> Walter Raleigh was given permission to explore and colonise N.America = <i>The reconnaissance voyage</i>	<b>1585</b> Voyage to Roanoake	<b>1586</b> Rescue voyage led by Drake to rescue colonists at Roanoake	<b>1587</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> attempt to colonise Roanoake	<b>1590</b> 100 settlers at Roanoke had disappeared	<b>1595</b> Raleigh's expedition to Guiana	<b>1591</b> Ralph Fitch returned to England	<b>1591</b> James Lancaster sailed on a journey to the East – the voyage was a disaster	<b>1600</b> East India Company formed	<b>1601</b> East India's first expedition: Lancaster was chosen to command the ships	<b>1602</b> Lancaster established England's first warehouse in Java	<b>1603</b> James Lancaster arrived back in England	