

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 17th 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

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