

INTRODUCTION

The East India Company

Enquiry Question -

How did the East India

Company change people's

lives in Britain and Asia?

INTRODUCTION

Read the information on these pages and use them to answer the questions at the end



Creation of ‘the Company’

London merchants hoped to secure their own supply of spices from the ‘East Indies’.

Queen Elizabeth I signs Charter creating ‘The Company of Merchants of London Trading to the East Indies’.



Monopoly

The Company was granted a monopoly on all English trade east of the Cape of Good Hope. This means it was the only company allowed to trade there.

Until 1813, it was the sole company importing goods like spices, cotton and indigo from India to Britain.



Early voyages to Asia

Sir James Lancaster commanded the first Company expedition to Asia, returning with a cargo of pepper and making a fortune

In 1607, the Company established a trading post at Surat, on the west coast of India.



Rivalry with other European powers

The East India Company was one of several European companies trying to become rich from trading around the Indian Ocean.

The first Europeans to sail to the Indian Ocean were the Portugese. By the 1600s the Dutch had overtaken them.

This is a model of one of their ships. They were well armed and the companies would use force.



Indian Rulers

The India that the first East India Company ships visited was not a single country. It was divided into different areas under different rulers. You can see this on this map from 1598.

The Mughal Empire was growing in India at this time. Soon the EIC was given protection by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir allowing them to trade in his lands safely.





An
ACCURATE MAP
of
INDIA
By
G. Rollos Geog.

Delhi

Calcutta

Canton

Bombay

Surat

Seringapatam

You can use this map to find key locations mentioned in the rest of the resources

Hours East from London.

Equinoctial Line

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Quick Quiz

To check you are ready to move on answer these 5 questions. You can find the answers on the information slides you have just looked at.

1. What were London Merchants hoping to secure from the East Indies?
2. The East India company was given a **monopoly**. What did this mean?
3. Who led the first EIC voyage and what did they bring back?
4. Which other European powers were the EIC's first rivals?
5. Which Mughal ruler gave the company permission to trade in his lands?

(You can check your answers on the next page)

Quick Quiz

To check you are ready to move on answer these 5 questions. You can find the answers on the information slides you have just looked at.

1. What were London Merchants hoping to secure from the East Indies?

(Spices)

2. The East India company was given a **monopoly**. What did this mean?

(They were the only ones allowed to trade in a particular area or good)

3. Who led the first EIC voyage and what did they bring back?

(Sir James Lancaster and a boat load of Pepper)

4. Which other European powers were the EIC's first rivals?

(Portugal but especially the Dutch)

5. Which Mughal ruler gave the company permission to trade in his lands?

(Jahangir)