School resource

# Symbols of Power

## Chronology

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| **c. 3000 BC** | According to Hindu legends the Koh-i-Nûr diamond was found over 5,000 years ago and given to Krishna by Jambavan, the King of the Bears. |
| **1350s** | Secret jewel chambers, like that under St John's Chapel in the White Tower, are used to store the monarch's treasures. |
| **1508** | Henry VII has a repository built to house sovereign jewels on the south side of White Tower. |
| **1526** | The first written account of the Koh-i-Nûr has the diamond in possession of Emperor Babur. |
| **1535** | Henry VIII rebuilds the Jewel House at the Tower of London. |
| **1526 – 1728** | For the first 200 years of the diamond's recorded history the Koh-i-Nûr is in possession of India's Mughal emperors. |
| **1600s** | From the late 1600s the Tower provides military administration and supplies towards arming and building the Empire. |
| **1649** | After King Charles I is executed, the jewels and plate at the Tower of London are broken down and the metal taken to the Mint to be made into coins. |
| **1658** | The monarchy is restored and a new set of Crown Jewels is commissioned for the coronation of Charles II. |
| **1668** | The Crown Jewels are moved to the Martin Tower. |
| **1671** | Colonel Thomas Blood almost succeeds in stealing the crown, orb and sceptre from the Jewel House. |
| **1719** | Emperor Muhammad Shah is the last Mughal Emperor to possess the Koh-i-Nûr. |
| **1738** | The diamond is famously captured by the Persian King Nadir Shah and remains in the possession of Persian Kings for almost a 100 years. |
| **1750 – 1813** | The Koh-i-Nûr is bequeathed to the ruler Ahmad Abdali, considered the father of modern day Afghanistan. |
| **1757** | Start of British Colonialism in India. |
| **1813** | Maharajah Ranjit Singh, known as the 'Lion of Punjab' seizes the diamond from Shah Shuja, the exiled King of Afghanistan. |
| **1843** | The Koh-i-Nûr and the Punjab kingdom pass to Ranjit Singh's 5-year-old son Duleep. |

Historic Royal Palaces
Tower of London

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| **1849** | The British defeat the Sikh kingdom, annex the Punjab and acquire/seize the Koh-i-Nûr. |
| **1850** | The Koh-i-Nûr diamond is presented to Queen Victoria by Prince Duleep. |
| **1851** | The diamond is displayed in London at the Great Exhibition. |
| **1852** | The diamond is removed from its Indian setting on the orders of Prince Albert. It is recut as an oval brilliant and set into the Imperial Crown. |
| **1855** | The First Port of Empire - with the advent of steam power, the volume of trade flowing through London massively increases. Between 1855 and 1886 a series of new dock complexes are built on both banks of the River Thames to keep up with demand. |
| **1866** | Work begins on improvements to the Wakefield Tower to convert it into a new Jewel House. |
| **1877** | Queen Victoria is proclaimed Empress of India. |
| **1905** | The world's largest diamond, the Cullinan, is given to Britain by the South African government. |
| **1937** | The Koh-i-Nûr is set into the Crown of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. |
| **1967** | A new purpose built Jewel House is opened beneath the Waterloo Barracks. |
| **2012** | The Crown Jewels exhibition opens at the Tower of London. |

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