# 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. |
| 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. |