Key Stage 3

School resource

Symbols of Power

Chronology

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.