



# Brookfield Primary School Knowledge Organiser



## Year 6: What was the Sikh Empire?

History is the study of how the lives of people have changed over time and understanding the reasons behind why changes happen.

### The Sikh Empire

The Sikh Empire was founded in the early 19th century by Ranjit Singh who united the 12 Sikh Misls (independent states). The empire expanded to include regions that today are within India, Pakistan and parts of Afghanistan. With Lahore as its capital, the empire was a symbol of Sikh strength and religious inclusion.



Credit: World History Archive / Alamy Stock Photo



### Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Ranjit Singh was a brave and clever leader who created the Sikh Empire in the early 1800s. He built a powerful army and ruled fairly, allowing people of all backgrounds and faiths to live peacefully. The Sikh Empire grew to be rich and successful because of his reforms including improving trade, roads and buildings, like coating the Harmandir Sahib gurdwara in gold.

Credit: World History Archive / Alamy Stock Photo

1

### Sophia Duleep Singh

Sophia Duleep Singh was the granddaughter of Ranjit Singh. She lived in Britain and became famous for fighting for women's rights. At that time, women in Britain were not allowed to vote. Sophia joined a group called the suffragettes, led protests and even refused to pay taxes to show that women should have the same rights as men. During World War I, she paused her work with the suffragettes and helped wounded Indian soldiers.

Credit: The National Archives



Portrait of Sophia Duleep Singh selling "The Suffragette" outside Hampton Court Palace, where she has a suite of apartments.

### Lahore

Lahore was a significant city in the Sikh Empire. It had busy markets where traders bought and sold spices, clothes, jewellery and horses. Skilled workers made weapons, fine fabrics and gold jewellery, too. As it was on a major trade route, people came from faraway places like Persia (Iran) and Central Asia to do business.



2

How did the Sikh Empire begin?

How do Sikh beliefs impact society?

What made Lahore important to the Sikh Empire?

Why is Ranjit Singh historically significant?

How do different interpretations shape our understanding of the Sikh Empire?

How do the achievements of Sophia Duleep Singh compare to Ranjit Singh?

**culture** A group of people's way of life such as their traditions, languages, foods and arts.

**Cultural exchange** People from different places share and learn from each other's way of life.

**legacy** Past events or actions which have had a lasting impact.

**perspective** How someone sees things based on how they feel and what they know.

**politics** Actions or activities based around getting or using power.

**Sikh Empire** A powerful kingdom based in the Punjab, founded and led by Ranjit Singh from 1799 to 1849.

**society** A group of individuals living together as a community.

**tax** A certain amount of money that is paid to the government.

### General Historical Words

Chronologically Continuity Government  
Hypothesis Immigration Industrial Interpretation  
Propaganda Religious Technological

