deh BRITISH di Come
Lesson 1 - Objectives

1. Explain the **reasons for the coming** of the British to the territory that is now Belize.

2. Explain the two primary **reasons why the British stayed** in British Honduras.
1. The British Empire - the big picture

2. War against the forest *(video clip)* - background to COLONIALIZATION

3. Early British settlements BUCCANEERS-. 1st Settlement in Laguna de Terminos + PIRACY - forging an EMPIRE

4. Buccaneer culture - moved into Bay of Honduras = British Honduras

5. Setting the framework for slavey - Logwood cutting *(DYE + DANDYISM)*
The **British Empire** at its height - 1900 ad

**QUICK FACTS**
- largest colonial Empire the world has ever seen
- controlled 23% of the world’s land mass
- 458 million people
- most powerful agent The East India Trading Company
The BRITISH came following the Spanish for GREED

WAR against the FOREST

video clip

minute 19 to 22

part 3 America Before Columbus
Early British occupation by BUCCANEERS

PIRACY - fighting the SPANISH

Here they conducted PIRATE raids and lived a rugged life

date = 1630s

Laguna de Terminos
1st place the British Buccaneers occupied
ongoing conflicts and WARS between the Spanish and the English and other EUROPEAN colonizers to GAIN power and control over the Caribbean created an unstable environment
The term *buccaneer* derives from the Caribbean Arawak word *buccan*, a wooden frame for smoking meat, preferably *manatee*. Piracy against Spanish shipping, generally using small craft to attack *galleons* (ships). They became so strong that they even sailed to the mainland of Spanish America and sacked cities.
Buccaneer life - they settled in an area the Europeans called

THE BRITISH SETTLEMENT IN THE BAY OF HONDURAS

They were pirates, buccaneers and adventurers, and lived in rough camps which they used as bases to raid Spanish ships.

By the middle of the 17th century these pirates began to cut the logwood they found in the area. In 1670 the Treaty of Madrid put an end to the piracy and encouraged these settlers to cut logwood.

These settlers were called Baymen.
Logwood is a tree from which a valuable dye used to colour woolen cloth was made. It was the economic basis for the British settlement in Belize for over 100 years.
activity in
notebook

In Your words
WHY did the British come?
WHY did they stay?
Make a sketch of a Buccaneer
Lesson 2 - Objectives

1. Identify the reason for Mahogany to become important.

2. Explain the society created as a result of the mahogany camps.
part 2

1. King Mahogany - 1700’s
2. Forestocracy
4. Mahogany Camp life
By 1770 there was more logwood in the market than was needed, and the price fell. Later, the development of cheaper man-made dyes in Europe lessened the need for logwood even more. Mahogany dominated the economic, social and political life of our country until the middle of the 20th century.

**MAHOGANY NOTES**

why is mahogany so valuable?
Logwood + Mahogany
The earliest historical record of enslaved Africans is from a Spanish missionary in 1724. He reported that they had been "introduced but a short time before from Jamaica and Bermuda". They were brought to Belize in the late 18th century from the West Indies.

Often they came through markets in Jamaica but some were brought directly from Africa, or from the United States. At that time most of the slaves bought by the British were taken from the Niger and Cross Delta regions in the Bight of Benin (present-day Nigeria) in West Africa, and from further south in the Congo and Angola.
Woodcutting was seasonal and required enslaved Africans to spend long periods of time isolated in camps, away from their families. The mahogany trees had to be found, cut, and trimmed. Then logs were taken through temporary paths to the nearest riverside, at a place called the "Barquadier". The logs were formed into rafts and floated down the river, usually during the rainy season.

**75% AFRICAN IN SETTLEMENT IN BAY OF HONDURAS (BELIZE)**

An early census in 1790 showed that three quarters of the population were enslaved Africans, a tenth white, and the rest were free blacks and people of mixed races.
The extraction of forest products in Belize created conditions different from British colonies in the Caribbean. First, because forest work required less labour than sugar plantations, there was no need for a large population. Secondly, forest exploitation as practiced in Belize did not require much machinery, capital, or roads. Thirdly, there was no attempt to replace the trees that were cut.

In the 18th century, mahogany was valued in Europe by cabinet makers, by the shipbuilding industry, and later by builders of railroad carriages. The forests of Belize contained a great deal of mahogany. The British settlers were ready to log it.

The shift from logwood to mahogany cutting produced several dramatic changes in the settlement. The cutting of mahogany required more land, workers and capital and resulted in the creation of a small wealthy class who owned most of the land and labour.

**FOREST CONDITIONS vs. plantation conditions**

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The huntsman's job was to search the forest to find the mahogany trees. Because this was an important skill, the huntsman was a very valued slave.

The axemen cut down trees. This was a very dangerous and highly skilled job because the axe was heavy and sharp. The axemen had to stand on a springy platform called a "barbecue" about 12 or 15 feet high.

It was the cattleman's job to take care of the cattle used to pull the huge trunks to the river.

It was stated in 1809 that:

"The gangs of negroes employed in this work consist of from ten to 50 each; few exceed the latter number. The large bodies are commonly divided into several small ones, a plan which it is supposed greatly facilitates labour".
Lesson 3 - Objectives

1. Identify the reasons for the need of a government system within the settlement.

2. Define the first system of governing that was used in the British Honduran settlement.
The British were reluctant to set up any formal government for the settlement for fear of provoking the Spanish. On their own initiative and without recognition by the British government, the settlers had begun annual elections of magistrates to establish common law for the settlement as early as 1738.
In 1765, Admiral Burnaby codified the settlement's regulations known as the **Burnaby's Code** which consisted of articles and regulations which aimed at preventing the theft of servants or property, and it also established systems for collecting taxes, settling disputes and determining punishment (usually fines) which continued in force until 1840 when an Executive Council was created.
basic timeline  
1670 - 1787  

Deh British di $TAY

1670 - MADRID Treaty opening all of the Americas to British colonization.

1720s - First record of African slaves in Belize.

1763 - Treaty of Paris: Spain permitted British settlers to cut logwood; no boundaries defined.

1765 - Admiral Burnaby codified Settlement's Regulations, known as "Burnaby's Code". Public meetings passed resolutions boundaries of logwood works.

1765/68/73 - Slaves revolt.

1779 - Spanish forces capture Belize and take Baymen and slaves to Yucatan.

1783 - Treaty of Versailles: Spain recognizes British rights to cut logwood in Belize between the Hondo and Belize rivers.

1784 - Settlers return to Belize; Despard appointed first Superintendent of the settlement.

1786 - Convention of London expands British rights in Belize to the Sibun and permits mahogany cutting.

1787 - British evacuate Mosquito Shore and 2,214 "Shoremen" and their slaves came to Belize.
Spanish attacks on British Honduras
The British were occupying land that Spanish had title to (de jure)

The resources from Spanish territory were being stolen and given to the British territory

On several occasions Spain and England had EMPIRE wars
During the 18th century, the Spanish attacked the British settlers repeatedly. In 1717, 1730, 1754, and 1779 the Spanish forced the British to leave the area. The Spanish never settled in the region, however, and the British always returned to expand their trade and settlement. At the end of the Seven Years' War in 1763, the Treaty of Paris conceded to Britain the right to cut and export logwood but asserted Spanish sovereignty over the territory. Still, there was never an agreement on the precise area in which logwood cutters could operate.
There was frequent conflict between the British and the Spanish over the right of the British to settle in Belize and cut logwood.
The *Convention of London*, signed in 1786, allowed the British settlers, known as *Baymen*, to cut and export logwood and mahogany from the Hondo River in the north southward to the *Sibun River*. The convention, however, did not allow the Baymen to build fortifications, establish any form of government, military or civil, or develop *plantation* agriculture. Spain retained sovereignty over the area and asserted the right to inspect the settlement twice a year.

The Convention also required Britain to evacuate its settlement on the *Mosquito Coast* (Costa de Mosquitos) in eastern Nicaragua and western Honduras. Over 2,000 of these settlers and their slaves arrived in 1787 in the settlement of Belize, reinforcing the British presence. The new settlers greatly increased the population, and moreover soon found themselves in considerable tension with the older settlers over the question of land rights and status.