

# Y8 History Napoleon Bonaparte



## Summary

Napoleon Bonaparte seized power in France in 1799. He crowned himself Emperor in 1804 (no one else being considered worthy enough to place the crown on his head) and became one of the most successful military leaders of all time. By 1811 Napoleon controlled most of Europe and had placed his brothers in charge of countries such as Italy and Spain. Despite Napoleon seeing the British as a 'Nation of Shopkeepers' he failed to invade Britain and resented her continuing trade with Russia and aid to Napoleon's enemies. Napoleon failed to invade Russia losing over 4 million men and was defeated and sent to the tiny island of Elba in 1814. He escaped and returned to France but was defeated at Waterloo and exiled to St Helena in 1815. He died there of stomach cancer in 1821.

## Key Figures

Napoleon	He rose up through the French army during the revolutionary wars. Became 1 <sup>st</sup> Consul of France in 1799, Emperor in 1804 and conquered much of Europe by 1811. One of the greatest military leaders in history but eventually beaten and exiled to St Helena.
Lord Horatio Nelson	An experienced Admiral of the British Navy. He commanded the flagship, 'HMS Victory', at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. He famously said that "England expects every man will do his duty." Nelson died at Trafalgar from a musket shot wound on board The Victory.
The Duke of Wellington (Arthur Wellesley)	An army general who led the British to victory with the help of Blucher's Prussian army at the Battle of Waterloo. He said the Battle of Waterloo was 'a damned near-run thing.'



## Key Vocabulary

<b>Dictator</b>	A leader of a country who has total control. Napoleon betrayed the French Revolution.
<b>Empire</b>	A group of countries owned or governed by a 'mother country.' France had an empire.
<b>Continental System</b>	A system of trade between the countries in Napoleon's Empire. Russia defied this system.
<b>Society</b>	People, education and law. Napoleon did make some positive changes to France.
<b>Rake</b>	A daring tactic used by Nelson at Trafalgar. The British got behind the French ships.
<b>Naval Supremacy</b>	The British controlled the seas after the Battle of Trafalgar and was thus able to build up an overseas empire and their industrial might.
<b>Exile</b>	To send someone away from their country and position. Napoleon was exiled to Elba in 1814 and St Helena in 1815.
<b>100 Days</b>	Napoleon returned from Elba, marched to Paris and ruled France again for exactly 100 days.
<b>Legacy</b>	The things (both positive and negative) that someone leaves behind after death.

**Challenge**— How far do you agree that Napoleon deserves the nickname "The Master of Europe"?

Look at the timeline. What do you think was the most important turning point in the life of Napoleon? Explain your decision.

## Other Resources

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/bonaparte\\_napoleon.shtml?basic=1](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/bonaparte_napoleon.shtml?basic=1)

## Y8 Schoology page



SCAN ME

1799 Napoleon became 1st Consul

1804 Napoleon became Emperor

1805 Napoleon lost at Trafalgar

1811 Napoleon controlled most of Europe

1812 The Invasion of Russia

1814 Napoleon sent to Elba

1815 Returned to France for 100 Days

1815 Defeated at Waterloo

1815 Exiled to St Helena. Died 1821.

## TIMELINE