

Willerby Carr Lane Primary School - History

Topic: The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Year: 6

Strand: a local History study

What should I already know?

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What will I know by the end of the unit?

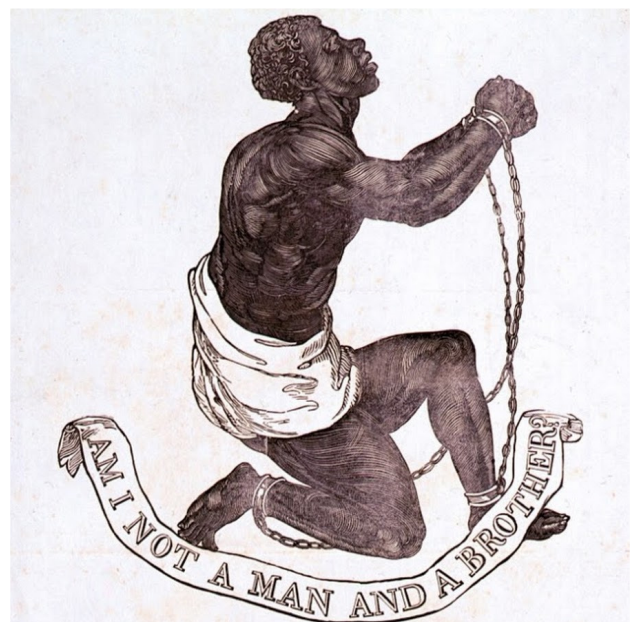
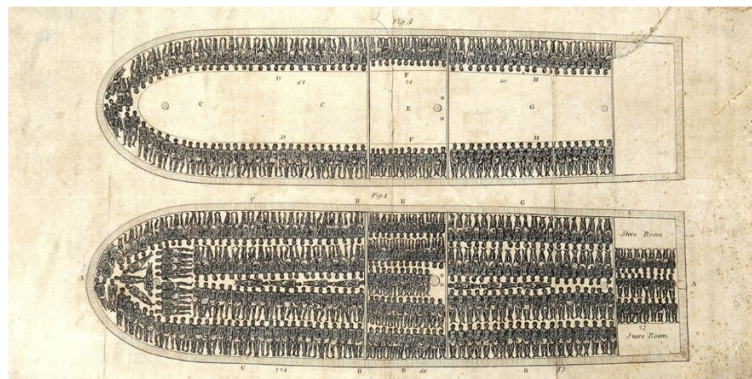
What was the transatlantic slave trade?

- Slaves were transported from Africa to the West Indies between the 17th and 19th Centuries
- Britain shipped over 3 million Africans across the Atlantic Ocean in the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- Africans were forcibly brought to British owned colonies in the Caribbean and sold as slaves to work on plantations.
- Those engaged in the trade were driven by the huge financial gain to be made, both in the Caribbean and at home in Britain.
- Manufactured goods (glass, guns, iron etc) were exchanged for slaves
- Slaves were then transported and sold in the West Indies
- Raw materials from America (sugar, rum, cotton and tobacco etc) were then brought back from America.

What was life like for slaves?

- During the crossing, slaves were packed below deck in filthy conditions.
- At least 1 million Africans lost their lives on the crossing.
- The living and working conditions in were very harsh for the slaves that were brought in to work the plantations.
- Overseers used the whip in an attempt to both motivate and punish slaves.
- Slaves themselves were also working and living with barely adequate nourishment and in times of hard work would often be starved.
- The average life of a slave after "adjusting" to the climate and environmental conditions of Jamaica was expected to be less than two decades.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Who were the abolitionists?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The British campaign to abolish the slave trade is generally considered to have begun in the 1780s • The abolitionists were horrified by the cruel treatment meted out to the enslaved • They wanted to bring forward the abolition of the slave trade in laws in Parliament • The Slave Trade Act received royal assent in 1807
Is there any slavery in the world today?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 45 million people are living in modern slavery • There is still forced labour, where victims are made to work through violence and intimidation • Some people are forced to work for free to pay off a debt






Vocabulary	
abolitionist	Someone who campaigned to end the slave trade
auction	slaves were sold to the highest bidder.
branding	to mark a person or animal with a hot iron to show ownership.
cargo	goods carried for trade
dysentery	a nasty form of diarrhea killed many Africans on the journey.
Jim Crow Laws	slaves had been banned from reading and writing. Laws said they had to pass a test before they could vote. This stopped them voting. Blacks

	could not mix freely with whites. From 1896 it was legal to keep Black and White people separate.
Middle Passage	the journey of slaves on ships from Africa to America. Took 8-12 weeks. 1 in 4 died on the way.
plantation	a large farm on which crops such as coffee, sugar and tobacco were grown.
shackles	iron chains used to fasten the legs or hands of a slave or prisoner.
slave	a person who is the property of another and is forced to obey them.
transatlantic	going across the Atlantic ocean

Key Dates / Timeline		
Date	Event	Description
1562	The Queen grants permission to transport slaves.	Sir John Hawkins was given permission by Elizabeth I to begin transporting captured African slaves to America. There they were sold . He is called the "father of the slave trade".
1781	The Zong massacre	This was the killing of 133 African slaves by the crew of the British slave ship Zong. They were thrown overboard so that the ship owner could claim compensation from his insurance.
1804	Naming of Haiti	Haiti was named by slaves who had rebelled against their masters led by Toussaint Louverture.
1807	The Slave Trade was abolished in England.	Although the Act made it illegal to engage in the slave trade throughout the British colonies, trafficking between the Caribbean islands continued, regardless, until 1811.
1833	Slavery was abolished in the British Empire.	This act of Parliament that abolished slavery in most British colonies, freeing more than 800,000 enslaved Africans in the Caribbean and South Africa
1867	Slavery was abolished in America.	In 1865, the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery was added to the U.S. Constitution.



Important figures	Image
<p>Abraham Lincoln</p> <p>was elected as president of the United States in 1860. He had spoken out against slavery and the southern states feared he would try to end slavery.</p>	
<p>Olaudah Equiano</p> <p>A slave who bought his freedom and published a description of life as a slave. He became an anti slavery campaigner.</p>	
<p>Thomas Clarkson</p> <p>English abolitionist, and a leading campaigner against the slave trade in the British Empire.</p>	
<p>William Wilberforce</p> <p>He was a British politician, philanthropist, and a leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade.</p> <p>He was born in a house on the High Street of Hull.</p> <p>He became a Member of Parliament (MP) for Yorkshire. In 1785, he became an evangelical Christian, which resulted in major changes to his lifestyle and a lifelong concern for reform. In 1787, he came into contact with Thomas Clarkson and a group of anti-slave-trade activists. They persuaded Wilberforce to take on the cause of abolition, and he soon became one of the leading English abolitionists. He campaigned against the slave trade. The first time he introduced the idea he lost the debate by 163 votes to 88 but he never gave up. He headed the parliamentary campaign against the British slave trade for twenty years until the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.</p>	