

History: Understanding the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Learning objective: To understand the origins, impact, and eventual abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade, and to recognise the contributions of campaigners for freedom.

Read each question carefully and provide thoughtful answers. Use the word bank to help you complete the sentences and explain the historical events.

In Year 4, we learn about the period from the 16th to the 19th century when millions of African people were captured and taken across the Atlantic Ocean. They were forced to work on plantations in the Americas under cruel conditions. This period caused immense suffering and loss. Brave people spoke out against this injustice, leading to the movement for abolition. Eventually, laws were passed to end this system, recognising that every person deserves liberty and dignity.

Word bank: Abolition · Enslaved · Transatlantic · Campaigners · Freedom · Plantations · Human Rights

1. What was the 'Transatlantic' slave trade, and where were people forced to work once they arrived? (2 marks)

2. Explain the meaning of 'Abolition' in your own words. Why was this movement important for history? (2 marks)

3. If a person earned £2 for a day of hard labour but was forced to give it all away, how does this help you understand the unfairness of being enslaved? Use the word 'freedom' in your answer. (3 marks)

4. Name one reason why it took so long for campaigners to change the laws regarding slavery. (2 marks)

5. Why do we study this difficult time in history today? How does it help us understand 'Human Rights'? (2 marks)

Draw: Ellie the elephant is visiting a history museum. Draw a picture of a monument or a statue that Ellie might see, which commemorates the people who fought for freedom and the end of the slave trade.



Extension challenge: Research a person from history who campaigned for the abolition of slavery. Write three sentences explaining why they are remembered as a hero today.