

Learning About the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Learning objective: To understand the historical context of the Transatlantic slave trade and the importance of abolition.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Ellie the elephant, who loves history, often teaches her friends about the past. She explains that between the 16th and 19th centuries, a great injustice occurred called the Transatlantic slave trade. Millions of people from Africa were captured and forced onto ships to be taken to the Americas. They were treated as property rather than people, forced to work in fields against their will. This period caused immense suffering and separated families for generations. However, those who were enslaved never stopped fighting for their freedom; they showed incredible bravery through acts of resistance. Eventually, brave campaigners in Britain, including people who had escaped slavery themselves, worked tirelessly to change the law. Their voices grew loud enough to demand justice, leading to the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807. Ellie reminds us that while we cannot change the past, we must remember these stories to ensure that the values of liberty and equality are protected for everyone today.

Word bank: Abolition · Enslaved · Injustice · Liberty · Resistance · Campaign

1. In what year was the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act passed in Britain? (1 mark)

2. What does the passage say happened to people once they were forced onto the ships? (2 marks)

3. Why does the text describe the people who were enslaved as showing 'incredible bravery'? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'treated as property rather than people' tell us about how the enslavers viewed their captives? (2 marks)

5. Ellie says we should remember these stories even though they are sad. Why do you think it is important for us to learn about difficult parts of history? Give a reason for your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque or a monument that celebrates the courage of those who fought for freedom and equality.



Extension challenge: Research a historical figure who campaigned for the abolition of slavery, such as Olaudah Equiano or William Wilberforce, and write three facts about their life.