

Understanding the Transatlantic Trade: A Historical Inquiry

Learning objective: To explain the impact of the transatlantic slave trade and why it is important to remember this period of history.

Use the following prompts to structure your historical report. Think about the facts Ellie the elephant has shared about the past and write your own balanced account.

History is a window into the past, and by studying the transatlantic slave trade, we learn important lessons about the value of human freedom.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition · human rights · injustice · abolition · legacy · significant · heartbreaking · nevertheless

1. The Origins of the Trade: Start by describing how people were taken from their homes in Africa. You could begin with: 'During the 17th and 18th centuries, many people were cruelly captured and...' (2 marks)

2. Life on the Plantations: Describe the conditions the enslaved people faced. You could use: 'Life on the plantations was incredibly difficult because...' (2 marks)

3. The Fight for Freedom: Explain how people resisted and the role of abolitionists. You could start with: 'Many brave individuals fought for their freedom by...' (2 marks)

4. The Importance of Remembering: Why do we study this today? You could write: 'It is important that we learn about this period of history because...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise your thoughts. You might say: 'In conclusion, the history of the slave trade teaches us the importance of...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a historical figure who campaigned against slavery, such as Olaudah Equiano or William Wilberforce. Write a short paragraph explaining one action they took to help end the trade.