

Understanding the Transatlantic Trade: A Historical Inquiry

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of the transatlantic slave trade and reflect upon the experiences of enslaved people, ensuring a sensitive and historical perspective.

Use this scaffold to structure your historical report. Ensure your tone is respectful and factual. Use the word bank to help connect your ideas and provide evidence for your arguments.

The history of the transatlantic slave trade is a complex and challenging period, marking a time of profound injustice that shaped the modern world.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition · nevertheless · a significant consequence · human rights · injustice · liberty · abolition · crucial · perspective

1. The Origins of the Trade: Explain why the demand for labour led to the forced transportation of people across the Atlantic. Start your paragraph with: 'The demand for goods such as sugar and tobacco created a system where...' (3 marks)

2. Life and Resistance: Describe the daily experiences of enslaved people and how they resisted their circumstances. Start your paragraph with: 'Life for those forced into slavery was defined by harsh conditions, yet many individuals chose to resist by...' (3 marks)

3. The Fight for Freedom: Compare and contrast the roles of abolitionists, such as Olaudah Equiano, in ending the trade. Start your paragraph with: 'The movement towards abolition gained momentum because...' (3 marks)

4. Reflection on Legacy: Justify why it is important to remember this period of history today. Start your paragraph with: 'It is essential to study this period because...' (2 marks)

5. What might happen if the abolitionist movement had never taken place? Explain the potential long-term effects on society and human rights. Start your paragraph with: 'If the campaign for abolition had failed, the world might have...' (4 marks)

6. Critical Evaluation: How did the wealth generated by the trade influence the industrial growth of Britain? Start your paragraph with: 'The economic prosperity of Britain during this era was inextricably linked to...' (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in the late 18th century. Write a persuasive letter to a local Member of Parliament explaining why the slave trade must be abolished, using at least three pieces of historical evidence you have gathered today.