

Understanding the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the causes, nature, and eventual abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade, and the contributions of key figures to its end.

Ellie the elephant has been researching history and has found several facts about the Transatlantic slave trade. Some of these facts describe the triangular trade route, some describe the conditions faced by enslaved people, and others describe the movement to end slavery (abolition). Sort the statements below into the correct categories: 'The Triangular Trade', 'Life and Resistance', or 'The Abolition Movement'.

Word bank: Triangular Trade · Abolition · Middle Passage · Equiano · Wilberforce · Resistance · Plantations

1. Sort the following statement: 'Ships carried manufactured goods from Britain to Africa, enslaved people to the Americas, and raw materials like sugar back to Britain.' Which category does this belong to? (2 marks)
2. Sort the following statement: 'Olaudah Equiano, a formerly enslaved man, wrote a famous autobiography that helped persuade people that slavery was cruel.' Which category does this belong to? (2 marks)
3. Sort the following statement: 'Enslaved people worked long hours on sugar and cotton plantations under extremely harsh conditions.' Which category does this belong to? (2 marks)
4. Explain one way in which enslaved people showed resistance against their captors, even when they were not free. (3 marks)

5. Why did William Wilberforce campaign in Parliament for many years to change the law regarding the slave trade? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the Atlantic Ocean and use arrows to show the three points of the 'Triangular Trade' route, labelling each leg of the journey.



Extension challenge: Research a person who fought for the abolition of slavery other than Wilberforce or Equiano. Write a short paragraph explaining what they did to help end the slave trade.