

Year 5 History: Understanding the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Learning objective: To understand the key terms and historical context of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the movement for its abolition.

Read each flashcard to learn about this important period in history. Use them to test your knowledge of how the slave trade functioned and how it was eventually challenged.

What does the term 'Transatlantic' mean in the context of the slave trade?

It refers to the journey across the Atlantic Ocean between Europe, West Africa, and the Americas.

What was a 'plantation' where enslaved people were forced to work?

A large farm, usually in the Americas, where crops like sugar, cotton, and tobacco were grown for profit.

Who were the 'Enslaved'?

People who were captured, taken from their homes, and forced to work against their will without pay or freedom.

What was the 'Abolition' movement?

A campaign led by people who wanted to make slavery illegal and end the slave trade forever.

How did enslaved people show 'resistance'?

By finding ways to fight back, such as escaping, refusing to work, or keeping their traditions and languages alive.

Who was William Wilberforce?

A British Member of Parliament who spent many years campaigning to end the slave trade in the British Empire.

What was the 'Middle Passage'?

The brutal sea journey across the Atlantic Ocean that enslaved African people were forced to endure on crowded ships.

Why were goods like sugar and cotton important to the slave trade?

These were 'cash crops' that were in high demand in Europe, and they were produced cheaply using enslaved labour.

What was the Slave Trade Act of 1807?

A law passed by the British Parliament that made it illegal to trade enslaved people within the British Empire.

Why do historians study the slave trade today?

To understand the past, acknowledge the suffering caused, and learn how people fought for justice and human rights.