

Understanding the Abolition: The Campaign for Freedom

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of the abolition of the slave trade and the role of campaigners in bringing about change.

Ellie the elephant has been researching the history of the movement to abolish the slave trade. Below is a list of events and actions. Sort them into two categories: 'The Injustice of the Slave Trade' and 'The Fight for Abolition'. Then, use the information to justify why the campaign for freedom was a turning point in British history.

Word bank: Abolition · Campaigner · Injustice · Petition · Parliament · Freedom · Equality · Enslaved people

1. Sort the following items into the correct column: 1) Being forced to work without pay, 2) Writing letters to Parliament, 3) Taking away a person's liberty, 4) Organising public meetings to explain the truth, 5) Creating petitions with thousands of signatures. (5 marks)

2. Explain why the act of signing a petition was such a powerful tool for campaigners during the 18th and 19th centuries. (3 marks)

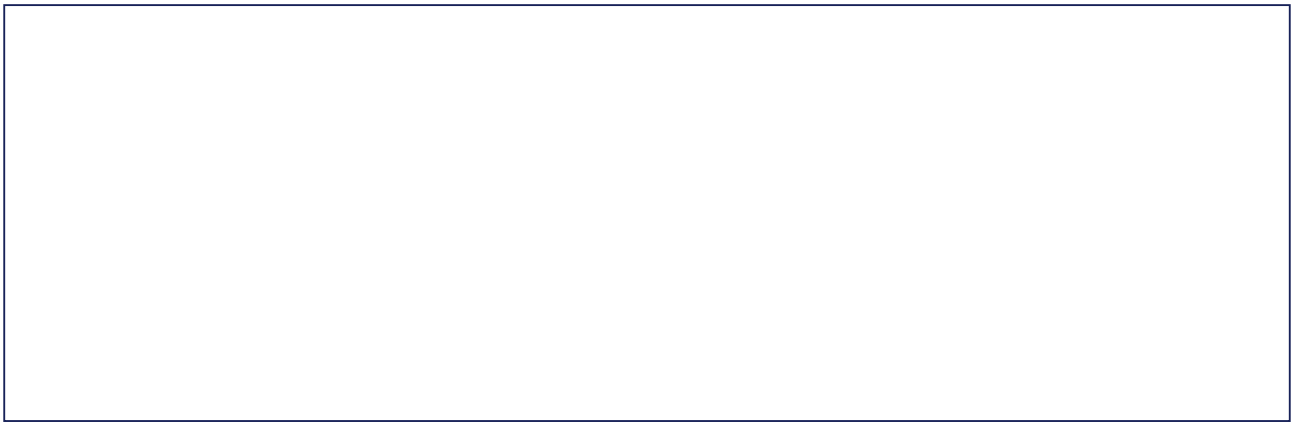
3. Compare and contrast the lives of those who were enslaved and the people who campaigned for their freedom. What were their primary goals? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why is it important for us to learn about the people who fought against the slave trade today? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if the brave individuals who spoke out against the slave trade had decided to remain silent? (3 marks)

6. If you were a campaigner in the year 1800, what message would you write on a banner to convince people to support the end of the slave trade? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque that could be placed in a town square to honour the people who worked to abolish the slave trade. Include symbols of hope and unity.



Extension challenge: Research a specific campaigner from the abolitionist movement. Write a short, persuasive speech (100 words) from their perspective, urging members of Parliament to vote for the end of the slave trade. Use persuasive language such as 'justice', 'humanity', and 'moral duty'.