

Understanding the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Historical Inquiry

Learning objective: To analyse the causes, human impact, and significance of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its legacy in shaping global history.

Use your historical enquiry skills to answer the following questions. Think carefully about the perspectives of those involved and the long-term consequences of this period in history.

This activity requires you to apply your knowledge of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Ellie the elephant has been studying historical archives to understand how millions of people were forcibly taken from Africa, transported across the Atlantic Ocean, and sold into forced labour. Social Studies / History helps us learn from the past so we can build a fairer future.

Word bank: Abolition · Transatlantic · Enslavement · Humanity · Resistance · Commodity · Inequality · Legacy

1. Explain why the Transatlantic Slave Trade is considered one of the most significant and tragic events in human history. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the lives of the people who were enslaved with the people who profited from the trade. What does this tell us about the society of that time? (3 marks)

3. Justify why it is important for historians to study the 'Abolition' movement alongside the history of enslavement. (2 marks)

4. What might happen if the stories of those who resisted enslavement were forgotten by history? Explain the importance of remembering these individuals. (2 marks)

5. Many historical monuments today are being re-evaluated. Why might a community choose to add information or change a statue of a historical figure who was involved in the slave trade? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative memorial that focuses on the themes of freedom, hope, and the human spirit, rather than the suffering of the past. Include a short explanation of why you chose your specific symbols.



Extension challenge: Research a key figure in the Abolition movement, such as Olaudah Equiano or William Wilberforce. Write a persuasive speech from their perspective, arguing why the trade should be brought to an immediate end. Use sophisticated vocabulary to convey the moral urgency of their cause.