

Social Studies / History Assessment: The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Learning objective: To understand the causes, the experience of the Middle Passage, and the eventual abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear and accurate answers. Ensure your writing is in full sentences where required.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the history of the 18th century. She explains that during this time, ships travelled in a triangular route across the Atlantic Ocean. Goods were taken from Britain to West Africa, enslaved people were transported to the Americas, and raw materials like sugar and cotton were brought back to Britain. This period caused immense suffering to millions of African people and left a lasting impact on world history.

Word bank: Abolition · Plantation · Middle Passage · Triangular Trade · Enslaved · Resistance · Human rights

1. Identify two types of raw materials that were transported from the Americas to Britain during the triangular trade. (2 marks)

2. What was the 'Middle Passage' and why was it described as a traumatic experience for those on board the ships? (3 marks)

3. Explain how the work of abolitionists, such as William Wilberforce or Olaudah Equiano, helped to change public opinion in Britain. (4 marks)

4. Name one way in which enslaved people resisted the conditions they were forced to live and work in. (2 marks)

5. In what year did the British Parliament pass the Act that made the slave trade illegal throughout the British Empire? (Hint: Think about the 19th century). (2 marks)

6. Critically reflect on the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade. Why is it important for historians today to study this period of history, even though it is difficult to learn about? (7 marks)

7. Define the term 'Abolition' in your own words. (2 marks)

8. Why were plantations in the Americas so dependent on enslaved labour? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map showing the three corners of the 'Triangular Trade' route, labelling Britain, West Africa, and the Americas clearly.



Extension challenge: Total: /25