

Understanding the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Step back into the past with Ellie the Elephant: Exploring the history that shaped our world.

- **The Triangular Trade was a journey between three continents: Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Ships carried manufactured goods to Africa, enslaved people to the Americas, and raw materials like sugar and cotton back to Europe.**
- **Life on plantations was incredibly difficult. Enslaved people were forced to work long hours in harsh conditions without pay, losing their freedom and being separated from their families.**
- **The abolition movement was a long struggle. Supporters held public meetings, wrote books, and signed petitions to show the public that enslavement was morally wrong.**
- **Olaudah Equiano, who had been enslaved himself, wrote a famous autobiography that helped many people in Britain understand the cruelty of the trade for the very first time.**
- **After the 1807 Act, the Royal Navy was given the task of patrolling the seas to stop ships that were still illegally trading enslaved people, showing a major shift in British law.**

Did you know? Did you know? During the 18th century, many brave people campaigned for years to change the law. Thanks to the efforts of people like Olaudah Equiano and William Wilberforce, the British Parliament finally passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807, which made the trading of enslaved people illegal across the British Empire.

Key vocabulary: Abolition · Transatlantic · Enslaved · Plantation · Triangular Trade · Human Rights · Campaigner