

Ellie's Historical Enquiry: The Transatlantic Trade

Learning objective: To understand the causes, the human cost, and the eventual movement towards the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Ellie the elephant has been researching history and has found several key events and concepts. Your task is to correctly sequence these events on a timeline and justify the significance of each. Once sequenced, use the 'Greater Depth' questions to analyse the complexities of this period.

Word bank: Abolition · Triangular Trade · Human Rights · Campaign · Enslaved · Injustice · Resistance · Legislation

1. Place these events in chronological order: 1) The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in the British Empire; 2) The peak of the Triangular Trade involving British ports; 3) The formation of anti-slavery societies and public petitions. Explain why public opinion was a necessary step before the law could change. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the life of a merchant involved in the trade with the experience of an enslaved person. Justify why the 'Triangular Trade' is often described as a cycle of exploitation. (3 marks)

3. Explain why the resistance of enslaved people was a critical factor in the eventual ending of the trade. What might have happened if enslaved people had not spoken out or fought for their freedom? (3 marks)

4. If you were a campaigner in the 18th century, suggest two methods you would use to persuade the government to change the law. Why would these methods be more effective than simply writing a letter? (2 marks)

5. Some historical records were written by those who profited from the trade, while others were written by abolitionists. Why must historians be careful when comparing these two types of sources? (2 marks)

6. Evaluate the lasting impact of this period on the modern world. How do we ensure that the lessons learned from this injustice are remembered today? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative monument that represents the courage of those who fought for freedom. Include symbols that represent hope, the breaking of chains, and the importance of remembering history.



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive speech from the perspective of an 18th-century abolitionist. Use rich vocabulary to describe the injustice of the trade and appeal to the audience's sense of morality and human rights.