

Year 5 History: Understanding the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Learning objective: To understand the historical context, the human impact, and the movement towards the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

Use these flashcards to revise key terms and concepts. Test your knowledge by covering the answer side and explaining the significance of each term in your own words.

Transatlantic Slave Trade

The system of trading enslaved people across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa to the Americas and the Caribbean between the 16th and 19th centuries.

Abolitionist

A person who actively campaigned to end the practice of slavery, such as Olaudah Equiano or William Wilberforce.

Plantation

A large farm or estate, typically in the Americas, where crops like sugar, tobacco, and cotton were grown by enslaved labourers.

Triangular Trade

The three-legged trade route connecting Europe, Africa, and the Americas, which formed the basis of the transatlantic slave system.

Enslavement

The act of forcing a person to work without pay or freedom, treating them as property rather than as a human being.

Resistance

The ways in which enslaved people fought back against their captors, including rebellions, sabotage, or preserving their own culture and languages.

Legislation

Laws passed by a government. In this context, it refers to the acts passed by the British Parliament to make the slave trade illegal.

Middle Passage

The brutal sea journey that enslaved Africans were forced to endure across the Atlantic Ocean, characterised by horrific conditions.

Emancipation

The process of being set free from slavery or legal, social, or political restrictions.

Human Rights

The fundamental rights and freedoms that every person is entitled to, which were systematically denied to those who were enslaved.