

Historical Inquiry: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Fight for Freedom

Learning objective: To analyse the causes, experiences, and historical significance of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, using Ellie the Elephant's historical research framework.

Use this template to organise your historical research. Ellie the Elephant reminds us that when studying difficult periods of history, we must be respectful, accurate, and seek to understand the perspectives of those who fought for justice and change. Research each section carefully using your classroom resources.

Word bank: Abolition · Enslavement · Transatlantic · Human Rights · Resistance · Campaign · Emancipation · Perspective · Justice

1. The Triangular Trade: Describe the three legs of the trade route. Why did this system rely on the exploitation of human beings? (3 marks)

2. Daily Reality: Explain the conditions faced by enslaved people on plantations. How did they demonstrate resilience or resistance? (3 marks)

3. The Campaign for Change: Compare the roles of different campaigners (such as William Wilberforce or Olaudah Equiano). How did their methods differ? (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why is it important for historians to study the 'hidden voices' of enslaved people rather than just the laws passed by governments? (4 marks)

5. What might happen if the abolition movement had failed to gather public support? Explain the potential long-term consequences for society. (4 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: How can we connect the historical struggle for human rights to the importance of equality and freedom in our lives today? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Extension: Imagine you are a journalist in the early 19th century. Write a persuasive newspaper editorial advocating for the permanent abolition of slavery. Use rich vocabulary to justify why freedom is a fundamental human right, referencing the arguments used by historical campaigners.