

Understanding the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Historical Inquiry

Learning objective: To analyse the historical significance of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and reflect on the impact of this period on human history.

Use this scaffold to construct a balanced historical account. Ellie the Elephant, our history expert, reminds us to use evidence and show empathy when discussing this sensitive topic. Ensure your writing is structured clearly, moving from the causes of the trade to the experiences of those affected and its eventual abolition.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade was a profound and deeply painful period in global history that involved the forced migration and exploitation of millions of African people.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition to · nevertheless · human rights · exploitation · abolition · significant · injustice · perspective · systemic · legacy

1. The Origins of the Trade: Explain why European powers began the transatlantic trade and justify why this was motivated by economic greed rather than human necessity... (3 marks)

2. The Middle Passage: Describe the conditions faced by those forced onto ships. What might have been the psychological impact of such an inhumane journey? (3 marks)

3. Life Under Enslavement: Compare and contrast the lives of enslaved people on plantations with the lives they might have led in their home communities in Africa... (4 marks)

4. The Campaign for Abolition: Explain why campaigners like Olaudah Equiano and William Wilberforce were so influential in changing public opinion in Britain... (3 marks)

5. Reflecting on the Legacy: Justify why it is important for historians today to study the legacy of slavery in modern society. What might happen if we choose to ignore these historical injustices? (4 marks)

6. Critical Evaluation: If you were a member of the British Parliament in 1807, what arguments would you use to convince others to vote for the abolition of the slave trade? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a diary entry from the perspective of an abolitionist living in the 18th century. Use rich, emotive vocabulary to describe your efforts to raise awareness about the injustice of the trade and the arguments you present to your community.