

Learning About the Past: The Abolition of Slavery

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of the abolition of slavery and the brave people who fought for freedom.

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the tricky words. Answer the questions in the boxes provided.

In the past, many people were treated very unfairly. People were taken from their homes, forced to work, and were not allowed to be free. This was called slavery. Enslaved people were treated as property, not as human beings. It was a very sad and difficult time in history.

However, brave people began to stand up against this. They started a campaign to change the laws. They wanted justice for everyone. Some people wrote books, gave speeches, and told others about the cruelty they had seen. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, says that many ordinary people helped change the world by refusing to accept what was happening.

In the UK, the government finally passed a law in 1833 to end slavery. This was called the Slavery Abolition Act. It meant that enslaved people in most parts of the British Empire were finally free. Although the world still has many challenges today, learning about this time helps us understand why freedom and equality are so important for every person on Earth.

Word bank: Abolition: Ending something forever · Freedom: Being able to choose your own life · Campaign: Working hard to change a law · Enslaved: Being forced to work without pay · Justice: Being fair to everyone

1. In what year did the UK government pass the law to end slavery? (2 marks)

2. What did the people who were against slavery do to try and change the laws? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the people who were against slavery had to be very brave? (2 marks)

4. What does the word 'freedom' mean in the context of this history lesson? (2 marks)

5. Why is it important for us to learn about these sad parts of history today? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of people working together to change the world. You could draw them holding signs for peace or helping one another.



Extension challenge: Imagine you lived in 1833. Write one sentence about how you would celebrate hearing that the new law had been passed.