Year 6 History Assessment: The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the causes, experiences, and abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade.

Read each question carefully and write your answers in the spaces provided. Ensure you use historical terminology where appropriate. Total marks: 25.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the Triangular Trade connected Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Ships carried manufactured goods to West Africa, where people were captured and forced onto ships to cross the Atlantic Ocean. This brutal journey, known as the Middle Passage, saw millions of people transported to work on plantations producing goods like sugar, tobacco, and cotton. Eventually, a growing movement of people in Britain, including formerly enslaved individuals and campaigners, fought for the abolition of the slave trade, leading to the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833.

Word bank: Abolition · Triangular Trade · Middle Passage · Plantations · Enslaved · Campaign · Human Rights

1. Identify two goods that were commonly produced on plantations in the Americas. (2 marks)

2. Explain what is meant by the term 'Middle Passage' and why it was a horrific experience for those on board. (3 marks)

3. Name one historical figure or group who campaigned for the abolition of the slave trade in Britain. (2 marks)

4. Describe the 'Triangular Trade' route. You may use a bulleted list to show the three points of the triangle. (3 marks)

5. Why was the 1833 Slavery Abolition Act a significant turning point in British history? (3 marks)

6. Explain how the work of campaigners influenced public opinion and led to change. Consider what methods they used to inform the public about the reality of slavery. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Ellie the elephant is researching the impact of the slave trade on the modern world. Write a short report (approx. 100 words) explaining why it is important for us to learn about this period of history today. Think about concepts like human rights, equality, and the legacy of the past. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a map showing the three continents involved in the Triangular Trade and label the paths taken by the ships.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out about the life of Olaudah Equiano and write down one fact about his contribution to the abolitionist movement.