Understanding the Transatlantic Trade: A Sorting and Sequencing Challenge

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

Ellie the Elephant has been researching the history of the transatlantic trade and the brave individuals who fought for its end. Below is a list of events and concepts. Your task is to sort them into three categories: 'The Triangular Trade System', 'Life and Resistance', and 'The Fight for Abolition'. Once sorted, number them in the order they occurred chronologically.

Word bank: Middle Passage · Abolitionist Movement · Raw materials sent to Britain · Manufactured goods sent to Africa · Olaudah Equiano · William Wilberforce · Slavery Abolition Act 1833 · Plantation labor · Resistance and rebellion

1. Sort the items from the word bank into the three categories (Triangular Trade, Life/Resistance, Abolition). Why was the Abolitionist Movement successful in the early 19th century? (3 marks)

2. Place the following events in chronological order: The Abolitionist Movement begins, The Slavery Abolition Act is passed, The height of the triangular trade. (3 marks)

3. Why do you think the personal narrative of Olaudah Equiano was such a powerful tool for the abolitionists in Britain? (2 marks)

4. Explain how raw materials like sugar, cotton, and tobacco were linked to the economy in Britain during this period. (2 marks)

5. How did enslaved people demonstrate resistance against their treatment, even when they were stripped of their basic human rights? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque or monument that Ellie the Elephant might design to honor the individuals who campaigned for the Slavery Abolition Act. Include symbols of hope and freedom.

Extension challenge: Research a specific figure from the abolitionist movement other than William Wilberforce. Write a short diary entry from their perspective describing the day the 1833 Act was finally passed.