



Y8 Module 1: Britain and the Slave Trade Knowledge Organiser

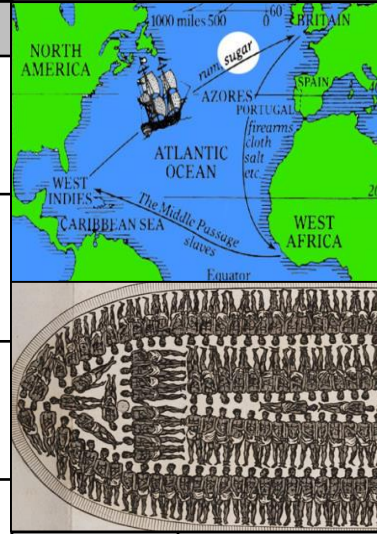


Key events

From 800AD Vikings sold slaves to Istanbul and Spain.	The Portuguese and Spanish started the slave trade where they used Native Americans as slave labour producing sugar, cotton and tobacco. African slaves started to be imported to America a the native Americans died out. The British became the main slave traders.	1582: First English Slavery voyage to Africa	1562: Sir John Hawkins was given permission by Elizabeth I to begin transporting captured African slaves to America. There they were sold . He is called the "father of the slave trade".	1619: The first African slaves were brought to British colonies.	1627: Barbados was established as a full slave society	1781: The Zong massacre was the killing of 133 African slaves by the crew of the British slave ship Zong. They were thrown overboard so that the ship owner could claim compensation from his insurance.	1787: The Abolition committee is set up in Britain by Thomas Clarkson	1789: Olaudah Equiano published autobiography	1791: The slave rebellion on St Domingue (modern day Haiti) – inspires many other slaves to rebel! They were led by Toussaint Louverture.	1803 – 1819: Sugar beet is discovered during the Napoleonic Wars. This was a breakthrough as sugar beet could be grown in colder climates.	1807: The Slave Trade Act ended the trade of slaves in the British Empire	1833: The Slavery Abolition Act freed all slaves in the British Empire	1865: After the American Civil War, slavery was abolished in the USA.	1960s : Black Americans still do not have equality with white Americans. Martin Luther King campaigned to change this	2009: Barack Obama was elected as the first African American to be elected President of America.	2010: Following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and numerous other African Americans whilst in police custody, protests and support for the BLM movement erupted all worldwide.
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Key individuals

Olaudah Equiano	A slave who bought his freedom and published a description of life as a slave. He became an anti slavery campaigner.	Thomas Clarkson	One of the first men to attend the Abolition Committee – he interviewed over 20,000 people involved in the slave trade collecting evidence against the slave trade.
Nanny	Legendary figure in Jamaican folklore who has even appeared on their money. Nanny led a group who assisted other slaves in escaping and joining their community.	Hannah More	A member of the Abolition Society. She wrote poems about the horrors of the slave trade , and convinced many of the need to ban it.
Toussaint Louverture	A former slave who had been granted his freedom by his master. He led the revolt of the French colony of Saint-Domingue (modern day Haiti).	Julian Fedon	In 1795 Julian Fedon led the slaves of Grenada in a violent rebellion against the English. Although the rebellion failed, it convinced people that slavery was wrong.
Nat Turner	Nat Turner and six other slaves attacked their master and his wife and children as they slept. They went on to murder 55 white people over the next few days. 10 weeks later Turner was captured and hanged on 11 th November 1831. White people took his body, skinned it, gave out parts of it as souvenirs e.g. a purse made from his skin.	Granville Sharpe	A lawyer who used the law courts to try and give slaves their freedom. In 1787 he set up the Abolition Committee. Also fought the court case opposing the treatment of slaves on board the <i>Zong</i> .
Samuel Sharpe	Freed slave who was educated, a good speaker who used religious arguments to condemn slavery. Led Jamaica's most significant slave revolts 1831-32. More than 200 plantations in the north of the island were affected as 60,000 slaves seized large areas of land .	Josiah Wedgewood	Josiah Wedgwood joined the anti-slavery side and designed a logo for it. The design appeared on bookplates, coat buttons, wax seals, jewellery etc.



Arguments for slavery

- Some people thought slavery made the Africans happier
- Slavery was not against the law
- Some people thought black people were not as clever as white people and needed to be told what to do, or that they were lazy or dangerous.
- Slave owners thought white people were superior to them.
- Some people thought that God approved of slavery. Slavery was also mentioned in the Bible which made people think it was okay.
- The plantation owners made lots of money because they didn't have to pay the slaves any wages.
- Slaves could be sold for \$1200 each, so people who brought them from Africa could make lots of money.
- The sugar trade in Britain was worth £20million a year. Sugar and cotton traders made lots of money and became very rich.

Arguments against slavery

- By 1823 the Abolition movement, led by Thomas Clarkson was gaining popularity.
- Christian groups like the Quakers thought slavery was a sin against God.
- Slave revolts were becoming more frequent – e.g. Toussaint Louverture in St Dominque / Nanny Maroon in Jamaica.
- British public opinion had turned against slavery – e.g. women and the sugar boycott.
- People were appalled to learn of the conditions on board slave ships – Thomas Clarkson
- The testimonies of ex-slaves shocked the British people – e.g. Olaudah Equiano
- Cheaper alternative found – Sugar Beet
- William Wilberforce campaigned against the slave trade. The first time he introduced the idea he lost the debate by 163 votes to 88 but he never gave up.

Key word	Definition
Abolition	The action of ending a system or practice
Civil rights	The right to freedom and equality
Emancipation	The process of being set free
Plantation	A farm that only grows one type of crop e.g. coffee, sugar or tobacco
Sotiltee	A sugar sculpture, only the very wealthy could afford.
Slave	A person who is the legal property of another
Transatlantic	To do with countries on both sides of the Atlantic ocean e.g. Britain and the US.
Auction	The process of selling captured or enslaved Africans. Grab and go auction or highest bidder.

