

WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR GETTING RID OF SLAVERY?

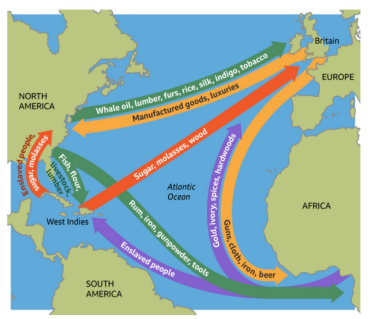
TRY TO REMEMBER THE KEY REASONS FOR GETTING RID OF SLAVERY

- PUBLIC PRESSURE**
 - The public support for abolition increased hugely once they began to hear and be aware of the terrible things that were happening. Books were written by escaped slaves like Olaudah Equiano. THOMAS CLARKSON got lots of evidence to show people in his speeches. He showed the chains and read accounts of the experiences.
 - Public opinion wanted it ended and put pressure on Parliament to do so.
- INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE**
 - WILLIAM WILBERFORCE MP**
 - THOMAS CLARKSON** – campaigner
 - JOHN NEWTON** – Amazing Grace
 - JOSEPH WEDGWOOD** – Wealthy Industrialist. He made pieces of pottery with this slogan on it: 'Am I not a man and a brother', and images of slaves.
 - Olaudah Equiano** was taken from Africa to Barbados when he was 10. He worked as a servant on a ship and stayed in London where he became a Christian. He hoped he would be made free, but his master took him to America and sold him. Equiano bought his freedom and returned to England. He wrote a book about his experiences. Lots of people read this and they turned against slavery. He also made speeches at protest meetings.
- ECONOMIC REASONS**
 - The economic argument for the slave trade began to die out in Britain. Britons no longer bought the products being produced in the West Indies and USA as they were produced more cheaply in Brazil and Cuba. The Plantations began to close. Profits slumped.
 - The industrial revolution in Britain began to employ lots of people and made the need for slavery less.
 - Plantation owners began to realise it was cheaper to EMPLOY their ex slaves rather than pay for their upkeep
 - In order to get slavery passed the British government pushed through a huge package of financial rewards for slave owners – to give up the trade.
- MORAL/ RELIGIOUS**
 - There was a major move by Christians in Britain to end slavery. They saw it as sinful and a scourge on humanity.
 - The famous song AMAZING GRACE was an anti slavery song written by a man called John Newton – who was a slave but became a Christian and actively campaigned to have slavery ended.
 - The MP William Wilberforce was also motivated by his Christianity. His church in CLAPHAM, London became a focus for the Anti slavery movement.
 - Quakers; Methodists, Baptists and the Catholic Church all began to campaign against slavery

The trade in slavery eventually began to be opposed in greater numbers. In 1787, the influential British politician, William WILBERFORCE began to work with other groups to form a powerful ANTI SLAVERY MOVEMENT. This was fiercely opposed, especially as many British politicians had made lots of money in the slave trade. However, gradually their campaign became so popular that they could not be ignored.

In 1807 Britain eventually abolished the slave trade across its empire. It would lead to other countries following

Slavery had existed for thousands of years. However, in the 18th century it became a huge international business based on human suffering and profiteering. It also connected various continents creating wealth for some continents (eg Europe) and pain, violence and death for others (eg Africa)



The triangular trade refers to an international trade system from the 16th to 19th centuries.

- FIRST STAGE:** European powers like Britain, France, Portugal and Spain transported manufactured goods like pots, pans, alcohol and guns to Africa. These were exchanged with some African tribes for slaves in West African ports.
- SECOND STAGE:** Slaves were transported in horrific conditions on the so called MIDDLE PASSAGE to America. They were transported to the West Indies for sugar production or to the USA to be slaves in the cotton plantations. This journey could take from 6 weeks to several months and slaves suffered from heat, exhaustion, overcrowding, disease and cruelty. Up to 12 million were estimated to have been transported this way. Over 2 million were estimated to have died on this journey.
- THIRD STAGE:** Once slaves were sold in the Caribbean or USA the ships were then restocked with raw materials like cotton, sugar and tobacco they returned to sell these valuable cargoes in Europe. This trade was highly profitable and made many people very wealthy.



WHAT WERE THE PLANTATIONS?

On arrival in the Americas or West Indies the slaves were sold and sent to work on the PLANTATIONS. These were large estates growing valuable crops such as Sugar, Coffee, Tobacco or Cotton.

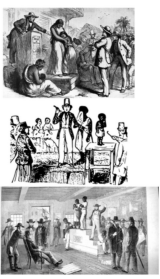
- This was often back breaking work and their hands would be bleeding from the types of plants involved.
- Gangs of slaves would consist of men, women children and the elderly.
- They worked from dusk until dawn under the orders of the white Overseer. They would be whipped if they did not work hard enough.
- Working days were often over 16 hours a day of harvest.
- They would be given small breaks for breakfast and lunch.
- They would return to their quarters late and be made to do chores before going to bed - having to get up at day break for another day of work.
- They would live on the Plantation in communal quarters. Thatched cottages with earth floors and the most basic of furniture.
- Some would be forced to wear the heavy iron chains around their neck. They would also be branded. If they escaped they could be executed if found. In the West Indies the fact they were islands often made escape impossible.



AUCTION

The first way to sell slaves is at AUCTION.

- Slaves are paraded in front of sellers
- Often pamphlets are handed out about the Auction and drums and music were used to attract customers
- Rich, white farmers and plantation owners look over the slaves and check their teeth and skin for signs of health
- Families are broken up at this point
- They check their back to see if they have been whipped – this would reduce the price as it would show they have been harder to control.
- An auctioneer would place the slaves on a platform for all to see and take bidding
- The highest bidder wins
- The slave was then branded with the owners mark and taken to the plantation



SCRAMBLE

While an AUCTION is a formal and organised format, often the captives just wanted a quick sale in order to get restocked and off home on the last leg of the journey. In this case they would use a SCRAMBLE

- Slaves were kept in a pen
- A price per slave was agreed
- Buyers were given the chance to rush in and grab the slaves they wanted from among the crowd
- This could be terrifying for the slaves
- They then paid for the slaves who were immediately branded with their owner's identifying mark owners mark and taken to the plantation.
- Those left over were called 'refuse' and would be sold cheaply – They often died soon afterwards



PLANTATIONS

HOW WERE SLAVES SOLD?

HOW WERE SLAVES PREPARED FOR SALE?

How were slaves prepared for sale?	
Problem	Solution and how
A) Slaves might have suffered injuries or punishment leaving scars	These could be covered up with clothing
B) Men's facial hair would be matted	They would be scrubbed and shaved
C) Slaves might be suffering from dysentery (extreme diarrhoea)	Their skin would be rubbed with oil to make them appear healthier
D) Slaves had been kept in dirty and smelly conditions	They would be washed and scrubbed before sale
E) Slaves might be wearing rags after such a long journey	They would be given clean clothing
F) Slaves had been kept in cramped conditions in which they could not move freely	They were made to exercise and jump up and down closer to the auction
G) Slaves might have rotten teeth	These were removed with pliers
H) Slaves needed to be 'seasoned' to obey their masters	Whips such as the Cat of 9 tails were often used or threatened to ensure obedience
I) Hair would be matted and might be grey (you could use more than one solution here)	Hair would be cut of dyed

WHO BENEFITED FROM SLAVERY?

- EMPIRE**
 - Western powers began to build a network of bases around the world to aid the slave trade
 - Britain soon began to take over areas of the world in order to keep the Slave trade going and in order to dominate it. Countries like Sierra Leone and Nigeria were slowly colonized by the British while Portugal would do the same with Brazil, transporting thousands of slaves there
 - The United States was a part of Britain's empire until 1776. Slavery became a crucial part of the economy in the southern States of the USA - Something which would later lead to Civil war!
- ECONOMIC BENEFITS**
 - Countries became very rich on the proceeds of slavery
 - Britain was one such country. It benefited from the Triangular trade building economic global trade- selling British products abroad, making money from shipping slaves and making money from importing other products
 - Industries benefited such as Sugar and Cotton and shipping companies and insurers
 - Thousands of people were employed in the slave industry or related industries
 - Plantation owners benefited from using slaves as very cheap workers for doing the tough and laborious tasks in the cotton fields of sugar cane
 - Slave owning countries dominated industries like Sugar and Cotton
 - Huge port cities like Liverpool and Bristol grew wealthy on the Slave trade. Liverpool boomed in population and wealth
- SOCIAL HABITS**
 - Britons benefited from the slave trade through products like sugar which were slowly becoming part of the British diet. This cheaper sugar was used for tea and coffee. It would lead to health effects, but it would change the British diet considerably.



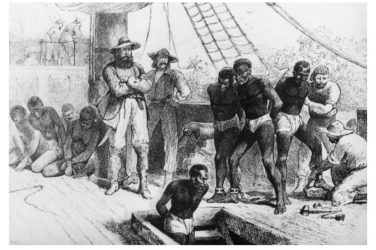
WHAT WAS THE MIDDLE PASSAGE?

The Middle Passage was the middle journey of the Triangular trade. The Africa to Americas route. It was notoriously horrific as it involved the transportation of the slaves. It could last from 2-3 months.

Slave ships were tightly packed with up to 600 slaves. In fact, there were designs which were created to show the best way to pack in slaves. These were sailing ships sailing in tropical waters, with baking sun and ferocious storms. Many slaves, trapped below decks in groups of over 600, would die from the terrible conditions. Disease, starvation and even suffocation as they were crushed in the hot unventilated holds. Some starved themselves to death due to the despair.

Slave owners would sometimes make the slaves dance on deck in order to keep them healthier for the slave market or as entertainment.

Up to TWO MILLION would die on this MIDDLE PASSAGE between Africa and the America's. The area was recently described in a BBC documentary as 'One huge crime scene'



HOW DID EUROPEANS JUSTIFY SLAVERY?

- HOW DID SOME PEOPLE JUSTIFY SLAVERY?**
 - During the time of the slave trade people used justifications to argue that the slave trade was acceptable
- BUSINESS**
 - Some Europeans argued that the economic benefits were too great to ignore and getting rid of slavery would forever damage and weaken the lives of people in their countries
 - Their industries would collapse due to lack of demand
 - People would be unemployed
 - The British colonies would suffer as their sugar and cotton and tobacco would not be able to compete
 - Other countries may keep using slavery and would be therefore unfair competition
 - The slavery industry itself would collapse - shipping; selling; supplying
 - Also very wealthy families (who made money from slaves) were not eager to see their wealth decrease
- MORAL**
 - Some used moral arguments
 - Slavery was an ancient principle that had been around since the dawn of time. Ancient Egyptians and Romans used slaves. The Arabs had enslaved millions of people in Africa previously so to them it was regarded as nothing new
 - Some tried to suggest that the Bible had slaves in it so it was morally acceptable.
 - The vast amount of people in Europe had never seen a slave so it made little impact on them
- RACIAL**
 - Some Europeans were notoriously racist.
 - Some felt that the Africans were inferior (not as good as) the White race racially
 - They believed that they deserved to be slaves as this was the order of things.
 - Some suggested that they were not Christians so they were not civilised.

