



History: Turquoise Class – An aspect or theme in British History beyond 1066.

Why should Britain be ashamed of slavery?

Key Vocabulary

Discrimination	the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.
Rebellion	an act of armed resistance to an established government or leader.
Colony	a country or area under the full or partial political control of another country and occupied by settlers from that country.
Prejudice	preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.
Trade	the action of buying and selling goods and services
Stowage	the action of stowing something space for stowing something in.
Segregation	the enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community, or establishment.
Liberty	the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behaviour, or politics.
Sanitation	conditions relating to public health, especially the provision of clean drinking water and adequate sewage disposal.
Captives	a person who has been taken prisoner or an animal that has been confined.
Abolished	formally put an end to (a system, practice, or institution).
Empire	an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state.



Key People

William Wilberforce— British MP who campaigned for the abolition of slavery in Parliament.
 Sir John Hawkins—Given permission by Elizabeth I to transport slaves, he is known as the 'father of the slave trade'.
 Granville Sharp—Sharp campaigned to improve the position of black slaves and former slaves in Britain.
 Olaudah Equiano - An Ex-Slave who moved to England and wrote a book about being a slave.

Key Places

Africa
 Spain
 Portugal
 Great Britain
 West Indies
 North America
 Spanish South America

Key Dates

1562	Sir John Hawkins was given permission by Elizabeth I to begin transporting captured African slaves to
1582	First English Slavery voyage to Africa
1787	Thomas Clarkson set up the Abolition of Slavery Committee
1789	Olaudah Equiano published autobiography
1791	The slave rebellion on St Domingue
1804	The slaves on St Domingue won the rebellion and re name the island Haiti
1807	The Slave Trade is abolished in Britain
1831	'The History of Mary Prince a Slave' published in Britain
1833	Slavery is abolished in the British Empire
1865	Slavery abolished in America



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Key Knowledge

The Atlantic slave trade or triangular trade involved the forced enslavement of many millions of Africans and their transport to the Americas, where they were made to work without wages in often inhumane conditions. The trade was at its height during the 18th century when Britain was the most active trading nation.

The slave trade was huge—British ships transported 2.6 million slaves. It has been estimated that, overall, about 12 million Africans were captured to be taken to the Americas as slaves. Over 55% of the slaves were taken to Brazil and Spanish South America. About 35% were taken to the West Indies and less than 5% of slaves were sold in North America.

The death rate of slaves was horrific. Unknown millions died in Africa before they even made it to the ships. It has been estimated that perhaps 20% of the slaves died on the Middle Passage across the Atlantic (between Britain and the Caribbean). In the Americas, the death rate amongst the slaves was also very high. Some historians suggest that the death rate in the 'seasoning camps' was up to 50%.

Slave auction images



Key Knowledge

The slave trade began with Portuguese and some Spanish traders taking African slaves to the American colonies they had conquered in the 15th century. British sailors became involved in the trade in the 16th century.

In the 18th century, perhaps 6 million Africans were taken to the Americas as slaves, at least a third of them in British ships.

For the British slave traders it was a three-legged journey, called the 'triangular trade'.

Goods such as guns and brandy were taken to Africa to exchange for slaves. The slaves were then taken on the 'Middle Passage' across the Atlantic to sell in the West Indies and North America. Finally a large cargo of rum and sugar were taken back to sell in England. Conditions on the Middle Passage were terrible.