



History Knowledge Organiser

Year: 8

Topic: Transatlantic Slave Trade

Half term: Autumn 2

Language: It is important to consider the language we use when discussing this topic. Many words are considered offensive and dismissive because they served to objectify the people who were enslaved and disregard the African perspectives of the history.

Origins of Slavery:

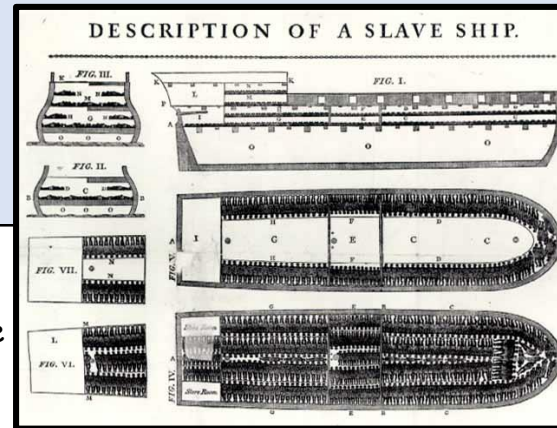
- Sumeria is still thought to be the birthplace of slavery, which grew out of Sumer into Greece and other parts of ancient Mesopotamia.
- China and India didn't adopt the practice of slavery until much later, as late as 221 BC.
- The **Transatlantic slave trade**, involved the transportation by slave traders of various enslaved African people, mainly to the Americas.
- The slave trade regularly used the triangular trade route and its Middle Passage and existed from the 16th to the 19th centuries.
- The vast majority of those who were enslaved and transported in the transatlantic slave trade were people from Central and West Africa.
- British ships transported around 2.6million enslaved people.
- It is estimated overall 12 million Africans were enslaved and taken to the Americas.
- The death rate was horrific. Unknown millions died in Africa before they even made it to the ships.
- It is estimated that at least 2 million enslaved people died on the Middle Passage.

Abolition of the Slave Trade:

- The act of the slave trade was outlawed in Britain by 1807 and slavery was officially abolished across the British Empire in 1833.
- In America, the enslavement of others continued until 1865. Its abolishment was one of the causes of the American Civil War

Africa before Slavery:

- Many Europeans thought that Africa's history was not important.
- They argued that Africans were inferior to Europeans and they used this to help justify slavery.
- However, the reality was very different.
- There were great and rich empires across the continent: Mali, Songhay, Benin, Gao to name a few.



Homework tasks

1. Learn the key words and their definitions.
2. Design your own KO using the knowledge gained in your lessons.
3. Choose one of the topics we have covered in this unit and teach a family member. Ask them to write a review of what you have told them.

Submit your homework to your class teacher for achievement points!

Key Terms



Slavery

Slavery and enslavement are both **the state and the condition of being a slave**, who is someone **forbidden to quit their service** for another person and is **treated as property**.

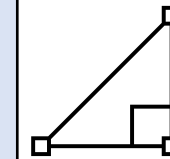
Enslaved

Make someone a slave

Misconception

A view or opinion that is in correct because it is based on faulty thinking or understanding.

Triangular Trade



A system of trading in which a country pays for its imports from one country by its exports to another. Used to refer to the transatlantic slave trade.

Middle Passage

The sea journey undertaken by slave ships from West Africa to the West Indies.

Suggested Reading:

- **Roots by Alex Haley**
- **Black Lily by Philippa Stockley**
- **Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi**
- **Philida by Andre Brink - about the abolition of slavery in South Africa**
- **Sugar in the Blood by Andrea Stuart**