



# Knowledge Organiser: Year 8 History

## How did growing British power impact enslaved people?

### The Transatlantic Slave Trade

- Plantation farming required a large labour force. Planters tried using Native enslaved people and British indentured servants but neither were suitable so they became involved in trading enslaved Africans.
- Three-stage journey: British ships sailed to West Africa and exchanged goods (guns/brandy) for enslaved African people; enslaved people taken to the Americas via the Middle Passage and sold; British ships returned home with raw materials (sugar/tobacco/cotton) to sell for profit.
- Conditions of the Middle Passage were brutal: cramped conditions; no sanitation; men and women separated; many Africans did not survive the journey.

1



### Conditions and Treatment in the Americas

- Once they arrived in the Americas, enslaved Africans were prepared for sale: washed and oiled to make them look appealing to buyers; families were often separated.
- Field hands in the West Indies worked on sugar plantations; in America they farmed cotton – this was backbreaking work; field hands vulnerable to brutal physical punishments.
- Enslaved house workers cooked, cleaned and looked after children of the families who enslaved them.
- Enslaved women vulnerable to sexual abuse.

2



### How did the enslaved resist?

- On board slave ships: suicide and refusal to eat.
- On plantations: running away, breaking tools, working slowly, burning crops, keeping African traditions alive.
- Maroons of Jamaica: escaped enslaved people who fled to the mountains of Jamaica and set up free communities; British government failed to win a war against them and they kept their freedom.

3



### Why was the slave trade abolished in 1807?

- Olaudah Equiano was a formerly enslaved African who wrote a book to show people the horrors of slavery.
- William Wilberforce was a British MP who campaigned to end the slave trade in parliament, introducing a bill every year between 1789-1806.
- Slave trade was losing profitability due to an oversupply of sugar and the rising prices of buying enslaved people in Africa.
- Moral attitudes were changing and people started to see the trade as wrong; 20,000 people signed a petition in Manchester in 1792.



### How did the abolition of the slave trade impact enslaved people?

- Abolition of the transatlantic trade eventually led to the abolition of the practice of slavery in the West Indies in 1834.
- Many British traders continued to illegally operate slave ships.
- Britain set up the West Africa Squadron to patrol the coast of West Africa to stop trading ships illegally taking Africans to the Americas; 150,000 enslaved Africans were freed by the Squadron.
- Thriving internal slave trade remained in the Caribbean and USA. People who were already enslaved could still be sold to different plantations meaning that enslaved families continued to face separation.



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4



- **Retrieval Practice:** Read over a section of the knowledge organiser, cover it up and then write down everything you can remember. Repeat until you remember everything.
- **Flash Cards:** Using the Knowledge Organisers to help on one side of a piece of paper write a question, on the other side write an answer. Ask someone to test you by asking a question and seeing if you know the answer.
- **Mind Maps:** Turn the information from the knowledge organiser into a mind map. Then reread the mind map and on a piece of paper half the size try and recreate the key phrases of the mind map from memory.
- **Sketch it:** Draw an image to represent each fact; this can be done in isolation or as part of the mind map/flash card.
- **Teach it:** Teach someone the information on your knowledge organiser, let them ask you questions and see if you know the answers.

- **Test:** We will do regular low stakes tests to check your ability to retrieve information from memory.
- **Mark our answers:** Once you have done a low stake test you can mark your work using the knowledge organiser.
- **Improve our work:** Once you have finished a piece of work you may be asked to check your knowledge organiser to see if there is any information on it that you could add into an answer.

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