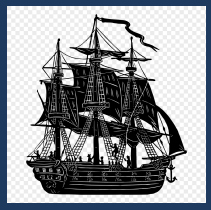
Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Britain's Slave Trade

Effects of trade and why it was abolished

About 60 minutes Level ★★★☆☆



How Britain Traded People

From the 1500s to the 1800s Britain became the world's leading **slave-trading** country. British ships carried millions of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic to work on **plantations**.

- The **triangular** trade had three stages: manufactured goods from Britain to West Africa; enslaved people across the Atlantic; plantation crops such as sugar, tobacco and cotton back to Britain.
- British ports such as Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow grew **rich**. In 1749 Bristol ships carried 8,560 enslaved people valued at £149,400.
- On 27 September 1672 King Charles II gave the Royal African Company a **monopoly** over British trade with West Africa. In the 1710s and 1720s British ships carried nearly 200,000 enslaved Africans.
- The Atlantic crossing was called the **Middle Passage**. Between 1500 and 1800 about 12-15 million Africans were trafficked, and about 1.8 million died on the journey.
- In the Americas enslaved men, women and children were treated as **property** and forced to work. African communities lost the people needed to thrive, while merchants and plantation owners made large profits from sugar, tobacco and chocolate.
- Enslaved people always **resisted**, from everyday acts to large rebellions. Campaigning by African writers such as Olaudah Equiano and the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade, formed in London in May 1787, helped end the trade in 1807.



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Britain's Slave Trade

TASK A

/9

Read the story and answer using evidence from the notes.

A 13-year-old living near Bristol docks in 1760 watches a ship being loaded with guns, cloth and iron for West Africa. The teenager learns the ship will then carry enslaved people across the **Atlantic** to Jamaica to grow sugar, and return to Britain with plantation goods.

a. **List TWO goods loaded in Bristol for trade in West Africa.** **(2)**

b. **Explain TWO effects of this voyage on African and Caribbean lives.** **(4)**

c. **Discuss ONE reason why many British merchants opposed abolition.** **(3)**

(Total: 9 marks)

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Remember Key Facts

Use the clock to revise the whole topic from memory.

Key words

triangular trade: three linked voyages between Britain, Africa and the Americas

plantation: large farm growing crops with forced labour

resistance: fighting back against enslavement

compensation: money paid to plantation owners in 1833

Middle Passage: forced voyage of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic

chattel slavery: system where people are legal property

abolition: legal ending of the trade or of slavery

TASK B

Fill each wedge with two short notes from memory, then check.



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Order and Check

Put the trade in order, then test your understanding.

TASK C

Example done for you

/5

Number these stages in the correct order from 1 to 6.

- [ ] Plantation crops are shipped back to Britain for refining and sale
- [ ] Enslaved people are sold in the Americas to work on sugar, tobacco and cotton plantations
- [ ] Campaigners protest and Parliament abolishes the trade in 1807
- [ ] Enslaved people endure the Middle Passage across the Atlantic
- [1] British ships leave Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow with guns, cloth, iron and beer
- [ ] Enslaved Africans are exchanged for British goods on the West African coast

TASK D

Example done for you

/3

Tick the correct answer using facts from page 1.

1. **Which ports sent British slave ships to West Africa?**
   - [ ] Dover, Hull and Newcastle
   - [x] Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow
   - [ ] Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh
2. **What was the Middle Passage?**
   - [ ] The voyage of manufactured goods from Britain to Africa
   - [ ] The forced voyage of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic
   - [ ] The voyage of sugar and tobacco from Britain to Africa
3. **When did Parliament abolish the British trade in enslaved people?**
   - [ ] 1672
   - [ ] 1787
   - [ ] 1807
   - [ ] 1833
4. **What did the 1833 Act do?**
   - [ ] Gave a monopoly to the Royal African Company
   - [ ] Ended slavery but paid £20 million to plantation owners
   - [ ] Freed all enslaved people with payment to them
   - [ ] Banned sugar from the Caribbean

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Causes and Choices

Link causes to effects, then weigh up views on abolition.

TASK E

Sort the ideas: why did the trade grow and what effects followed?

Causes

- Demand for cheap labour on American plantations
-
-
-

→ **Effects of Britain's slave trade** →

Effects

- 12-15 million Africans trafficked, about 1.8 million died
-
-
-

TASK F

/8

Compare views in 1807 and decide the best course for Parliament.

Parliament in 1807 must decide whether to abolish the British trade in enslaved people.

Keep the trade going

Advantage

Disadvantage

Abolish the trade but keep slavery

Advantage

Disadvantage

Abolish the trade then end slavery

Advantage

Disadvantage

Which is the most suitable? Justify your choice.

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Words and Judgements

Explain a key idea and decide what history should remember.

TASK G

/4

Complete the word map to show understanding of abolition.

Definition (in my own words)

Characteristics

abolition

Examples

Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade, 1787

Non-examples

the Royal African Company monopoly in 1672

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Britain's Slave Trade

TASK H

/6

Choose the best focus for each person and explain why.

Focus on profits and ports | Focus on African voices and resistance | Focus on dates and Acts only

Person	Most suitable choice	Justification
A student explaining effects on West African communities		....
A student explaining why Bristol and Liverpool grew rich		....
A student explaining why abolition happened when it did		....

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can describe the triangular trade and Middle Passage ☹ 😐 ☺

I can explain effects on Africa, Britain and the Caribbean ☹ 😐 ☺

I can explain why Britain abolished the trade and slavery ☹ 😐 ☺

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Answer sheet: Britain's Slave Trade

Task A

a) Any two of: guns, cloth, iron, beer. (2)

b) African communities lost workers and families were separated, which damaged farming and community life. In the Caribbean enslaved people were treated as property, forced to work on plantations and many died. (4)

c) Merchants and plantation owners made large profits from enslaved labour and cheap sugar and tobacco, and argued Caribbean plantations were vital to Britain's economy. (3)

Task B

Answers will vary.

Task C

1. British ships leave Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow with guns, cloth, iron and beer 2. Enslaved Africans are exchanged for British goods on the West African coast 3. Enslaved people endure the Middle Passage across the Atlantic 4. Enslaved people are sold in the Americas to work on sugar, tobacco and cotton plantations 5. Plantation crops are shipped back to Britain for refining and sale 6. Campaigners protest and Parliament abolishes the trade in 1807

Task D

1. b) Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow

2. b) The forced voyage of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic

3. c) 1807

4. b) Ended slavery but paid £20 million to plantation owners

---

Task E

Causes: Demand for cheap labour on American plantations; British merchants wanted large profits from full ships; Guns, cloth and iron could be exchanged in West Africa; Existing slavery in Africa was exploited by Europeans

Effects: 12-15 million Africans trafficked, about 1.8 million died; African communities lost workers and were destabilised; British ports and factories grew rich from trade and sugar; Enslaved people resisted through rebellion and protest

---

Task F

Keep the trade going: + Plantation owners keep cheap labour and merchants keep profits. – Millions continue to suffer and die on the Middle Passage.

Abolish the trade but keep slavery: + Stops new trafficking while plantation work continues for owners. – Nearly 750,000 people remain enslaved as property.

Abolish the trade then end slavery: + Ends trafficking and then frees enslaved people, answering campaigners. – Plantation owners demand compensation and trade must change.

The best choice is abolish the trade then end slavery, because it stops the deaths of the Middle Passage and ends treating people as property, which is what campaigners and Olaudah Equiano argued for.

Task G

Definition: the legal ending of the British slave trade in 1807 and of slavery in 1833

Characteristics: result of long campaigning and resistance, made slave trading by British subjects unlawful, did not at first free those already enslaved

Examples: Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade, 1787, 1807 Act abolishing the trade, 1833 Slavery Abolition Act

Non-examples: the Royal African Company monopoly in 1672, continuing to buy plantation sugar made by enslaved labour, paying compensation to plantation owners only

---

Task H

A student explaining effects on West African communities: Focus on African voices and resistance (It shows family separation, loss of workers and how enslaved people fought back, not just British wealth.)

A student explaining why Bristol and Liverpool grew rich: Focus on profits and ports (It links triangular voyages, plantation crops and the £149,400 value of the enslaved people to jobs and factories in Britain.)

A student explaining why abolition happened when it did: Focus on African voices and resistance (It shows how enslaved resistance, Olaudah Equiano's writing and the campaign from 1787 led to the 1807 trade ban and the 1833 end of slavery.)

Pictures: "Tall ship png sticker illustration" is marked with CC0 1.0. To view the terms, visit https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/.

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources