

History: Slave Trade



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General Knowledge

What is slavery?

The practice of people owning other people is called slavery. Enslaved people have to work for the owners, doing whatever the owners ask them to do. In the past many societies had slavery. Now almost all societies consider slavery to be wrong. They consider personal freedom to be a basic human right.

When did the Slave trade end in Britain?

1807: This was the year that the Act to Abolish the Transatlantic Slave Trade was passed in Parliament, meaning that all trade and purchase of enslaved people became illegal.

1833: This was the year that the Slavery Abolition Act was passed in Parliament. This act gave all enslaved people in the British Empire their freedom, meaning that they were now classed as free citizens of the British Empire.



Statue of Edward Colston

The statue that was pulled down in Bristol was of a man named Edward Colston and, in fact, some groups have been calling for the statue to be removed for many years.

He was a slave trader in the 17th century (1600s) and part of a group called the Royal African Company, which transported about 80,000 men, women and children as slaves from Africa to the Americas.

It made him very rich and when he died in 1721, he left a lot of money to charities and good causes.

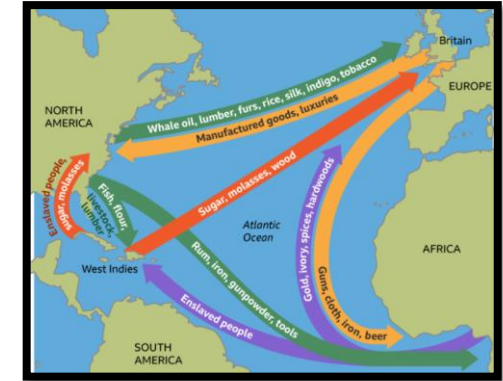


Who was William Wilberforce?

William Wilberforce was an 18th century politician who was one of the key figures in the campaign for the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in the UK. He also campaigned on other social issues, such as child workers.

Key Vocabulary

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| William Wilberforce | A British MP and abolitionist who campaigned against the slave trade. |
| Plantation | A large farm growing one crop. Many slaves were field hands on plantations. |
| Discrimination | the unjust treatment of different categories of people. |
| Abolition | Banning or getting rid of something. |
| Exploitation | the action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work. |
| Edward Colston | An English merchant whose statue was taken down in the centre of Bristol. |
| Merchant | Merchants deal with trade. That means they deal goods that they do not produce themselves, in order to get profit. |
| Enslaved | To be made into a slave. |
| Boycott | When people refuse to buy or use something as a form of Protest. |



The Slave Triangle

A three part trading journey. 1. European ships took cloth, guns, iron pots, swords to Africa and exchanged them for African slaves. 2. Ships loaded with slaves crossed the Atlantic to America where they were sold. 3. Ships loaded with sugar, cotton, tobacco returned to Europe.

What was the Bristol Bus Boycott?

In 1963, Guy Bailey was refused a job as a bus conductor in Bristol because he was Black. The boycott of the Omnibus Bus Company followed and on 28th August, this racist rule was reversed. The Bristol Bus Boycott helped pave the way for the 1965 Race Relations Act in Britain.