

# Knowledge Organiser: The Slave Trade and Black History

## Key Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Abolition	The act of formally ending a system, such as slavery.
Slave	A person who is owned by another and is forced to work without pay or rights.
Triangular Trade	A historical trade route between Europe, Africa, and the Americas where slaves, goods, and money were exchanged.
Middle Passage	The sea journey undertaken by slave ships from West Africa to the West Indies.
Plantation	A large estate or farm where cash crops are cultivated, often using slave labour.
Emancipation	The process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions, especially for enslaved people.
Abolitionist	A person who advocates for the ending of slavery.
Racism	Prejudice or discrimination directed against individuals based on their race or ethnicity.
Colonisation	The process by which a country establishes control over a foreign territory and its people.
Atlantic Slave Trade	The transatlantic movement of enslaved African people to the Americas, spanning from the 16th to the 19th century.
Itinerant	A person who travels from place to place, particularly for work; often used in the context of workers during the slave trade period.

## Timeline of Key Events

Year	Event / Concept Description
1444	Portuguese traders capture the first African slaves for trade in Europe.
1562	John Hawkins, an English sea captain, begins the English involvement in the slave trade.
1619	The first African slaves arrive in Virginia, marking the beginning of slavery in British America.
1807	The British Parliament passes the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, prohibiting the slave trade in the British Empire.
1833	The Slavery Abolition Act comes into force, granting freedom to enslaved people in the British Empire.
1865	The American Civil War ends, leading to the Emancipation Proclamation and the abolition of slavery in the United States.
1960s	The Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. fights against segregation and for the rights of Black Americans, inspired by earlier abolition movements.

## Useful and Reliable Websites

- [UK National Archives - Transatlantic Slave Trade](#)
- [BBC History - The Slave Trade](#)
- [Amnesty International - Human Rights After Abolition](#)
- [National Gallery - The Blinding of Samson](#)

## Interesting Facts

1. An estimated 12.5 million African slaves were forcibly taken to the Americas during the Atlantic Slave Trade.
2. The conditions on slave ships were horrific; it is estimated that 1.8 million enslaved people died during the Middle Passage due to disease, malnutrition, and brutal treatment.
3. The abolition movement in Britain gathered momentum thanks to powerful stories, such as those of former slaves like Olaudah Equiano, who wrote about his experiences.
4. In 1833, the British government paid over £20 million (equivalent to billions today) as compensation to slave owners for the loss of their "property" after emancipation.
5. The impact of slavery continues to be felt today, influencing modern culture, politics, and society across the globe.

## Endpoints: What Students Should Know by the End of This Topic

By the end of this topic, students should be able to:

1. Understand and explain the reasons for the slave trade and its impact on African societies.
2. Describe the triangular trade and the Middle Passage and its effects on enslaved people.
3. Identify key figures and events in the abolition of slavery and the fight for freedom.
4. Discuss the cultural and social legacies of slavery and understand how it shapes contemporary society.
5. Critically evaluate different perspectives on the slave trade, including the views of both abolitionists and slave owners.
6. Appreciate the importance of Black history within the broader context of British history.

## Assessment Question

**Baseline Assessment & How successful has resistance and protest been throughout Black history?**