

History Y8 Knowledge Organiser

Autumn 1 - Slavery



The British Empire was at its most powerful during the reign of Queen Victoria. A huge contributing factor to this power was the very successful slave trade.

1. Key Words

Slavery- A relationship where one person has absolute power over another. They control their life, freedom and wealth.

Triangle Trade- The name of the system for trading slaves across the world.

Middle Passage- The names used to describe the journey from Africa to America for slaves, it took up to 2 months.

Plantation- A large farm that slaves worked on to produce cotton, tobacco and sugar.

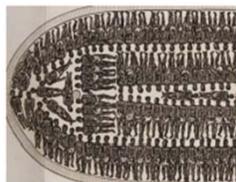
The Underground Railroad- The secret network of people who would help slaves escape to places of safety.

Abolition- Is the act of putting an end to something by law e.g. slavery.

The Slavery Abolition Act 1833- The Act passed in Britain that abolished slavery.

2. The Trade Triangle and Middle Passage

The system in which slaves were traded across the world. Ships were loaded in England with goods such as guns, cloth and salt. This was taken to Africa and traded for slaves. The ships then went on a 2 month journey known as the Middle Passageway to the Caribbean. Here the slaves were sold to work in the cotton plantations and farms. The ship was then loaded with sugar and cotton, to be taken back to England to be sold for huge profits.



The Middle Passage was the longest part of the journey for slaves from Africa to the Caribbean. They suffered through terrible conditions and many died during the journey. Slaves were packed into the ship in very tight quarters and laid down for most of the journey. They were only given little bits of food to keep them going and were severely punished should they disobey orders. Slaves were chained up for the entire journey, meaning that diseases spread quickly and easily from slave to slave. A lot threw themselves overboard in order to avoid their fate as a slave.

3. Who benefited from the slave trade?

Plantation Owners - Plantation owners, owned large pieces of land which farmed different crops. Plantation owners grew 'cash' crops of sugar, tobacco, coffee, spices and cotton for sale back in Europe which would be worked on by the slaves. By the constant supply of 'free' labour and good trading links plantation owners lived very lavish lifestyles, with very little upset to deal with. African Tribal Leaders - African Tribe Leaders captured slaves through war between rival communities over land. They would then trade their captures for weaponry and gunpowder to increase their power in their native land. They also expanded national trade to trading with European countries to increase their wealth. British Business Men - The Slave Trade made areas such as, Liverpool and Bristol extremely rich. Factory owners and business men that were involved in the production of weapons and gunpowder, benefitted massively from the selling of goods to African Tribe Leaders. African Slaves - Some slaves worked in the plantation owner's house as butlers, cooks or housemaids. They were able to learn new skills, such as cooking and cleaning. They were often dressed in finer clothing and given a better diet than those that worked in the fields

4. The life of a slave Domestic Vs Plantation

Domestic slaves were butlers, cooks and maids, who had to look after the plantation owner, his family and his house. Plantation slaves were those who worked 18 hour days on the plantations growing cotton and tobacco. Domestic slaves were usually treated better than plantation slaves, they were given better food and were clothed. Accommodation - slaves lived in wooden shacks with mud floors, with up to as many as 15 people sharing 1 room. There was no furniture and old rags would be used to make beds. Family - Slaves had no legal protection, therefore marriages and families could be broken up lawfully by their owners. Many used this as a threat to control slave behaviour. 32% of slave marriages were dissolved by masters selling slaves away from the family home.

5. The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad grew during the 1800s. 'Free' slaves, both those who escaped and those who were set free, joined together to help other slaves escape. It was a dangerous and illegal action, but it offered hope to those who had no other way of escape. The 'railroad' was a network of people who would escort escaped slaves to places of safety. The Underground Railroad was neither underground nor a railroad, but a secret network of safe houses and antislavery activists - black, white, and Native American - who helped slaves escape to freedom. Every home that welcomed runaways and every individual who offered food, clothing, or other assistance could be considered part of the railroad. Though never formally organized, tens of thousands of slaves, aided by more than 3,200 railroad "workers," escaped to the northern states

6. Abolishing the Slave Trade

Britain was one of the first countries to abolish slavery. It introduced the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833. This abolished slavery throughout the British Empire (however there were a few exceptions). In 1843, slavery was finally abolished in all British Territories. An anti-slavery law remains in force to this day. William Wilberforce campaigned against the slave trade. The first time he introduced the idea he lost the debate by 163 votes to 88 but he never gave up.

The USA abolished slavery on the 31st January 1865. It was known as the 13th Amendment and it declared that all people in the United States were free. However the abolition of slavery was a huge issue in America and even caused the American Civil War between the North and the South states. Abraham Lincoln was elected as president of the United States in 1860. He had spoken out against slavery and the South feared he would try to end slavery.

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Y10 History Knowledge Organiser
Autumn 1 – Crime and Punishment c.1900-Present



Homework

Week	Spellings	Quiz	
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