

## Week 1 : That Atlantic Slave Trade and Middle Passage

**Keywords**

- Slavery: forcing someone to work for free, usually in horrific conditions
- Capture: taking someone by force
- Middle passage– the part of the trade triangle where Africans were transported across the Atlantic to the West Indies.

The main methods of capture were raids of African villages, use of criminals, kidnapping young Africans and re-selling slaves.

An estimated 12.5 million Africans were transported between the 16th and 18th centuries.

The voyage took 3-4 months and enslaved people were kept in chains in the hull of the ships. Resistance would be dealt with by flogging.

- Some captive Africans refused to be enslaved and took their own lives by jumping from slave ships or refusing to eat or just 'giving up' and dying in despair. 15-16% of enslaved people died on the Middle Passage.

- Zong Massacre—1781-83. 131 African people were thrown overboard because the crew could not claim insurance money on the lost cargo.

## Week 2: Auctions and life on Plantations

## Keywords:

Auction—a public sale where goods go to the highest bidder.

Slave auctions were advertised when it was known that a slave ship was due to arrive.

Slaves would often be split up from their families and friends and given new names.

It was the role of the auctioneers to make individual slaves seem appealing to plantation owners. Slaves would be scrubbed and their wounds filled with hot tar before auction.

The unsold and frail were often sold by scramble auctions, where after agreeing a flat rate, plantation owners would race to grab the best workforce.

## Week 3: Abolition

## Keywords:

Abolition—to do away with or put an end to. An abolitionist is a person who supports the abolition of the slave trade.

1787 The Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was created.

1789 Olaudah Equiano, an ex-slave, released his memoir *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* giving the abolition movement more support.

1807 Parliament passed an Act that abolished Britain's role in the slave trade

1833— Parliament passed an Act that abolished slavery in the British Empire

Morality—people joined the abolitionist cause as they saw slavery as going against their Christian duty.

Economy—arguments for the slave trade revolved around the profits slave traders in parliament made

- William Wilberforce—the abolitionist who fought for abolition in parliament, introducing a bill that helped to abolish the transatlantic slave trade.

## Week 4: Empire

Empire: A group of nations or peoples ruled over by an emperor, empress, or other powerful sovereign or government

The British Empire included; North America, including the West Indies, and the Pacific including New Zealand, India, Gibraltar and Minorca

After the World War One (after 1918) it became increasingly difficult for Britain to hold on to the Empire. It became clear that:

- Britain could no longer afford an empire.
- Britain had no right to rule people who did not want to be ruled by Britain.
- Britain realised that the Royal Navy was not strong enough to protect all the Empire anywhere in the world.

Mansa Musa: King of Mali and richest man in the old world

## Week 5: West Africa

Benin: The Oba (King) of Benin is the supreme ruler. The Kingdom lasted from the 13th century to the end of the 19th century. Initially resisted the slave trade and traded cloth.

Asante: The gold trade was central to economic life. The Kings of Asante used profit from the gold trade to build huge armies, and used them constantly to fight and take land. Asante literally means 'because of war'. The Queen Mother helped to run a lot of the Kingdom, and she chose the next King.

Transatlantic Slave Trade: created by Europeans, who took huge numbers of African slaves to force them to work in places such as America and the West Indies. They worked on plantations for crops such as sugar or tobacco.

Tight Pack: Method involving packing as many slaves into the hold of a ship as possible

Revolt: take violent action against an established government or ruler; rebel.

## Week 6: Consequences and India

Scramble for Africa: Where European countries divided control of Africa following the Berlin Conference 1884-5

Asante Wars: A series of 5 wars between the English and Asante people from 1823-1900 over who should have the power in the area

Britain controlled land in the West Indies (where a lot of sugar was processed by slaves). They also controlled land in the East Indies which included India.

Jewel in the crown of the British Empire: India was one of the wealthiest parts of the British Empire and this was how it was referred to.

Koh-i-Noor diamond, set in the British crown, taken from India in 1849.