

# The Slave Trade

Autumn 2

Key Events	
1562	Sir John Hawkins was given permission by Elizabeth I to begin transporting captured African slaves to America. There they were sold . He is called the “father of the slave trade”.
1781	The Zong massacre was the killing of 133 African slaves by the crew of the British <b>slave ship</b> Zong. They were thrown overboard so that the ship owner could claim compensation from his insurance.
1804	Haiti was named by slaves who had rebelled against their masters led by Toussaint Louverture.
1807	The Slave Trade was abolished in England.
1833	Slavery was abolished in the British Empire.
1865	Slavery was abolished in America.
1981	Mauritania becomes the last country in the world to abolish slavery although modern day slavery still takes place around the world illegally.

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.
Dysentery	A nasty form of diarrhea killed many Africans on the journey.
Middle passage	The journey of slaves on ships from Africa to America. Took 8-12 weeks. 1 in 4 died on the way.
Transatlantic	Going across the Atlantic ocean
Abolitionist	Someone who campaigned to end the slave trade
Plantation	A large farm on which crops such as coffee, sugar and tobacco were grown.
Shackles	Iron chains used to fasten the legs or hands of a slave or prisoner.
Cargo	Goods carried for trade
Slave	A person who is the property of another and is forced to obey them
Auction	Slaves were sold to the highest bidder.



## Key People

<b>Olaudah Equiano</b>	A slave who bought his freedom and published a description of life as a slave. He became an anti slavery campaigner.
<b>Harriet Tubman</b>	She was born a slave in 1820 in Maryland. In 1849 she ran away. The Underground Railroad helped her to reach Canada. She became a conductor and made 19 journeys back to Maryland to help slaves escape. She led 300 people to safety.
<b>William Wilberforce</b>	A British MP and abolitionist who campaigned against the slave trade.

## What is an empire?

Empire is a term used to describe a group of territories ruled by one single ruler or state. Empires are built by countries that wish to control lands outside of their borders. Those lands can be close by or even thousands of miles away. For example, the Roman Empire (1st - 5th Centuries A.D.) stretched all the way from Britain to Egypt.

## How big was the British Empire?

The British Empire is a term used to describe all the places around the world that were once ruled by Britain. Built over many years, it grew to include large areas of North America, Australia, New Zealand, Asia and Africa, as well as small parts of Central and South America, too.

## The British Empire

The 16th Century is often referred to as the 'Age of Discovery' - new thinking about the world and better shipbuilding led to more exploration and the discovery of new lands.

England, in what is now Britain, wanted more land overseas where it could build new communities, known as colonies. These colonies would provide England with valuable materials, like metals, sugar and tobacco, which they could also sell to other countries.

The colonies also offered money-making opportunities for wealthy Englishmen and provided England's poor and unemployed with new places to live and new jobs.

But they weren't alone. Other European countries were also exploring the world, discovering new lands and building empires, too - the race was on, and England did not want to be left behind.

### Task 1

Research and draw a map of the British Empire. Label the countries that Britain owned and the dates that they were in charge.

### Task 4

Imagine you are a slave. Write a diary entry explaining your thoughts and feelings.

### Task 2

Imagine you are William Wilberforce and are giving a speech to parliament outlining why slavery should be abolished.

### Task 5

Imagine you have travelled back in time and write a set of interview questions to interview a slave.

### Task 3

Choose a key person involved in helping to abolish the slave trade. Draw a portrait and write a character profile.

### Task 6

The British Empire is a controversial subject. Write a list of ideas as to why you think this is.