

Adventurers - Cry Freedom



Overview

Cry Freedom! Is a thematic unit based around the history of slavery. We start by learning what slavery is, looking at some of the reasons behind it and examples of it, before moving on to find out about slavery in Europe, Asia, Africa and America throughout history. Then, we learn about two key people who were instrumental in making slavery illegal, before investigating modern day slavery and what we can do to stand against it, like the courageous abolitionists of the past.

The History of Slavery

Slavery has existed in almost every culture around the world throughout history. Many people were forced into slavery because of wars and poverty.

Europe (594 BC / BCE)

In Ancient Greece, the slaves were so key to the economy (how the country made money) that people could not imagine society being able to exist without slaves. This is an argument that we see repeated throughout history and in every society.

If you became a slave in ancient Greece, you were viewed as the master's property and were not even allowed to keep your name – your master gave you a slave name.

Asia (900 AD / CE)

Hundreds of thousands of Indians were enslaved by the invading armies in the Islamic invasions. Sometimes, so many people were captured and taken as slaves, that merchants came from many different countries to buy them because they were so cheap - only a few coins each.

Africa (700 - 1776 AD / CE)

The slave trade existed in Africa for over 1000 years. From 700 AD / CE the climate of constant tribal rivalry meant Africans were enslaving other Africans. Later, from 1525 - 1776, colonialists from Europe and America kidnapped Africans and took them away as slaves.

America

The owners of vast sugar plantations in America wanted lots of slaves to work on them, so they raided Africa for people. All the slaves captured in Africa were transported to America in horrible conditions, packed together in the holds of slave ships.

The slave trade was finally made illegal in Britain in 1833 and in the USA in 1865.

Abolitionists

Sojourner Truth (1797 - 1883) was a former slave in America, who believed that all people were equal and should be treated the same. She travelled the country telling people what it was like to be a slave. She was an excellent speaker and her stories and speeches helped people to understand how immoral slavery was and that it must be stopped.

William Wilberforce (1759 - 1833) was an English politician and a key campaigner for the abolition of slavery. Like Sojourner, he was a dedicated Christian and his beliefs were the reason for his conviction that slavery must be stopped. He fought for this for twenty years and died three days after slavery was made illegal in Britain.



Modern Day Slavery

There are still millions of people in slavery around the world today, despite this being illegal. Many of these people are slaves because their families owe money and many have left their home countries to find a better life working in a new country, only to be tricked and trapped into being slaves.

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Vocabulary

Abolition	completely stopping something
Abolitionist	somebody who wants to end something e.g. slavery
Captive	taken and held prisoner
Human Trafficking	is a modern version of slavery, which means the movement of people is used by any means such as fraud, force or deception
Master	a person who has control over something or someone
Middle Passage	the forced voyage of African slaves across the Atlantic Ocean to America
Modern-day	nowadays
Plantation	a large area of land where crops are grown and harvested
Slave	a person who is owned and controlled by another person and can be sold by them
Trans-Atlantic	across the Atlantic Ocean
Underground Railroad	a network of people, African American as well as white, offering shelter and aid to escaped slaves from the South

Concept Flow

- To know and understand what slavery is and recognise its different forms
- To learn about the history of slavery around the world
- To learn about key figures involved in the abolition of slavery
- To learn about modern-day slavery



My Notes / Questions