

Project glossary

abolish

To end or ban something.

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Abolition of the Slave Trade Act

British legislation passed in 1807 which made the slave trade illegal, although slavery itself remained legal.

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abolitionist

A person who wants to end slavery.

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apprenticeship

A period of time working as an apprentice often for low or no pay, in order to learn that person's skills.

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auction

A sale where goods or property are sold to the highest bidder.

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chattel

A word for enslaved people, which meant that they were other people's property and could be treated in the same way as animals.

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civilisation

The developed culture and way of life of a society.

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coffle

A line of enslaved people chained together and marched from one place to another.

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colonisation

The act of sending people to live in, govern, and control another country and its indigenous people.

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dehumanise

To subject someone to degrading conditions or treatment.

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diaspora

The spreading of a group of people from their original homeland to other parts of the world.

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discrimination

Treating somebody unfairly based on their race, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age or any other way in which they are different.



emancipation

To be set free from legal, social or political restrictions, such as slavery.

enslavement

To have one’s freedom taken away and be forced to work for no money.

enslaver

A person who keeps someone in slavery.

exploitation

The unfair treatment of someone in order to benefit from their work.

export

To send goods to another country for sale.

import

To bring goods in from another country for sale.

indenture

To officially agree that someone will work for someone else for a certain length of time, especially to learn a job.

indigenous

To naturally exist in a country or area rather than arriving from somewhere else.

maafa

A Swahili word meaning ‘great catastrophe’ that is used to describe the ‘African Holocaust’ and the history and effects of the transatlantic slave trade.

Maroon

An escaped enslaved person who fled into the mountains to live in a small community.

marronage

The process of leaving slavery.

natural resource

Something that comes from the Earth, such as stone, metal and salt.

oba

A king in the Kingdom of Benin.



oppression

Governing people unfairly and cruelly and stopping them from having freedom and opportunities.

plantation

A large farm on which a particular type of crop is grown, such as sugar, tobacco, rum, rice or cotton.

Race Relations Act

British legislation passed in 1965 that banned racial discrimination in public places.

racism

The unfair treatment of people because they belong to a particular race.

rebellion

An act of resistance, usually violent, against the government or ruler of a place to fight for freedom from oppression or unfair treatment.

resistance

To go against something or to be part of a group that goes against something.

revolt

A refusal to accept someone’s authority.

shackles

Chains used to fasten together prisoners’ arms or legs.

slavery

The state of being an enslaved person or the practice or system of enslaving people.

Slavery Abolition Act

British legislation passed in 1833 which made slavery illegal.

trader

Someone who buys and sells goods.

transatlantic slave trade

The transportation of between 10 and 12 million enslaved African people from Africa across the Atlantic Ocean to the Caribbean and the Americas.



triangular slave trade

The three journeys that made a triangular shape, in which guns, ammunition, metals and linen were shipped from Europe to Africa; enslaved people from Africa were shipped to the Caribbean and the Americas, and sugar and coffee were shipped from the Americas to western Europe.

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uprising

An act of resistance or rebellion.

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Windrush generation

People who arrived in Britain from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971.

