

The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770–1807	
<p>A study of the nature of the British Atlantic slave trade in the late eighteenth century, changing attitudes towards it in Britain and the pressures that led to its abolition, illustrating the themes of rights, exploitation and culture.</p>	
Mandatory content	Illustrative areas
<p>The Triangular Trade</p> <p>Britain and the Caribbean</p> <p>The captive’s experience and slave resistance</p> <p>The abolitionist campaigns</p>	<p>The organisation and nature of the slave trade: its effects on British ports, eg Liverpool, Bristol; its effects on African societies, eg Ashanti, and on West Indian plantations. Slave ‘factories’ on the African coast; the economics and conditions of the ‘Middle Passage’.</p> <p>The importance of tropical crops such as sugar; the influence of the British in the Caribbean and the impact of the Caribbean trade on the British economy; the negative impact of the slave trade on the development of the Caribbean islands.</p> <p>Living and working conditions on the plantations; discipline; other forms of slave labour on the Caribbean islands; resistance on the plantations; fear of revolt.</p> <p>Origins of the abolitionist movement and its increased support outside and within Parliament. Role of Wilberforce. Arguments of the abolitionists: Christian, humanitarian, economic. Decision to concentrate on the slave trade.</p> <p>Methods of the abolitionists: meetings, evidence, eg Clarkson; first-hand accounts by slavers, eg Newton; publicity, eg Wedgwood. Attitudes and evidence of slaves and former slaves, eg Equiano. Resistance to the trade by slaves.</p> <p>Defenders of the trade: planters, MPs, cities; effect of the French Revolution; reasons for the delay in the abolition of the trade.</p> <p>The debate over reasons for the eventual success of the abolition campaign: public opinion, Parliamentary debate, economic circumstances.</p>