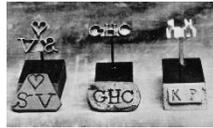


Knowledge Organiser – 2- How were slaves treated in the Transatlantic Slave Trade? (Early modern period, modern period)

1400s
Slave trade begins
(Dutch and Portuguese
sailors)



1600s
British traders
begin capturing
slaves



1787
Committee for
the abolition of
slavery



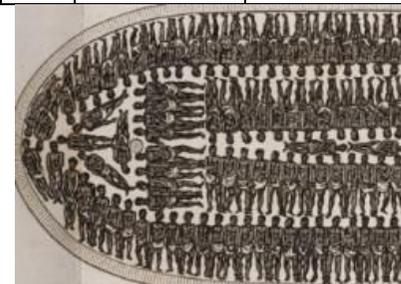
1525
First voyage from Africa to the
Americas took place

1833
Slavery abolition act

Key developments

1	Modern day slavery	Modern day slavery can be seen in a variety of examples taken from society today. Including, forced labour, sexual exploitation , child soldiers and prisoners. These individuals are forced to work and are controlled by another individual.
2	African culture	Africa had a rich culture before the arrival of slave traders. There was a wide variety of states and kingdoms, each with their own languages and cultures. African countries were rich in precious goods such as gold, ivory, and spices such as pepper.
3	Triangular trade	The slave trade began with European traders travelling to West Africa, trading goods and then travelling onto American colonies. Traders would then travel back to Europe with new products. African people were traded like a product alongside the other items of property (sugar, cotton textiles etc.). The British became involved in this trade in the 16 th century. At least 12 million Africans were taken to the Americas as slaves between 1532 and 1832 and at least a third of them in British ships.
4	Capture of slaves	Men, women and children would sometimes be captured at night while they were sleeping. Sometimes they would be taken while they were hunting or fishing. Once captured, slaves were marched to the coast. Once a slave was thought to be fit enough by a doctor, they would be branded with a hot iron with the initials of the ship owner. They would then be stripped of their clothing and their hair and forced on board ships.
5	The Middle Passage	The journey across the Atlantic ocean to the West Indies and North America. It was called the Middle Passage as it was the central journey of the trade triangle. Journeys lasted from 6 weeks to 3 months. Slaves were tightly packed and were often chained together, conditions were bad and disease spread easily.
6	Slave auctions	On arriving in the Americas, slaves were washed, shaved and rubbed oil or tar to disguise sores and wounds caused by

		conditions on board. Slaves were sold in public auctions to the highest bidding plantation owner. Families were often split up.
7	Life on plantations	Immediately owners refused the identities of their new slaves on arriving at the plantations . They forced Africans to adapt to new working and living conditions, to learn a new language and often take a new name. They called this process seasoning.
8	Abolition	At the end of the 18th century, people began to turn against the slave trade. Resistance began to grow in the form of rebellions and mutinies . In 1787, the Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was set up by William Wilberforce.



← A diagram showing the layout of slaves on a slave trip



→ Shackles used to chain slaves

Key terms

9	abolition	Stopping something from happening again
10	auction	When goods are sold to the person who pays the most.
11	exploitation	Using a person or situation to benefit a particular individual.
12	mutinies	Rebellion against the people who are in charge of a ship
13	plantation	A large estate, similar to a farm, where crops such as tobacco, sugar or coffee are grown.
14	rebellion	Resisting or protesting against something
16	slavery	When someone is forced to work by another, owned or controlled by another, or has restrictions on their freedom.