

## WORDS

- **ancient** = old
- **beast** = a wild and dangerous animal
- **capture** = to catch a person and keep them as prisoner
- **chain** = to hold a person to an object by using metal rings that are joined together in one line
- **citizen** = a person who lives in a country and has rights there
- **conquer** = to take control of a country by fighting
- **debt** = the sum of money that you have borrowed from someone and that you have to give back
- **depend on** = need very much
- **develop** = grow slowly
- **emperor** = king of a great country
- **freedom** = liberty , being free
- **gladiator** = a soldier who fought against other men and wild animals in a Roman stadium
- **harsh** = difficult conditions to live in
- **however** = but
- **household** = everything that belongs to the house
- **humane** = to treat people or animals in a way that is not cruel
- **identify** = to tell who you are
- **in exchange** = to give something and get something in return
- **instead of** = in something's place
- **law** = rules in a country
- **lord** = a very powerful man who lived in the Middle Ages and owned a lot of land
- **loyal** = here: to always help and fight for your master
- **master** = a person who has control over someone else
- **onwards** = from a certain time after that
- **peak** = to reach the highest point
- **prisoner** = someone who is kept in a place against his own will
- **protection** = guard, defend
- **public** = here: people who worked for the government
- **serf** = a person who does not have his own land . Serfs had to work for masters or lords
- **serfdom** = the system of having serfs
- **shave** = to cut off hair very close to the skin
- **society** = people in general
- **soldier** = a member of the army of a country who fights in a war
- **treat** = behave towards
- **whip** = to hit someone with a long piece of leather or rope
- **unexplored** = something that has not been seen or found yet

## THE BEGINNINGS OF SLAVERY

Slavery is very old. It probably began when **soldiers** started **capturing** their enemies in war. **Instead of** killing them they made them slaves. Slavery was at its first **peak** in ancient Egypt, Greece and in the Roman Empire.

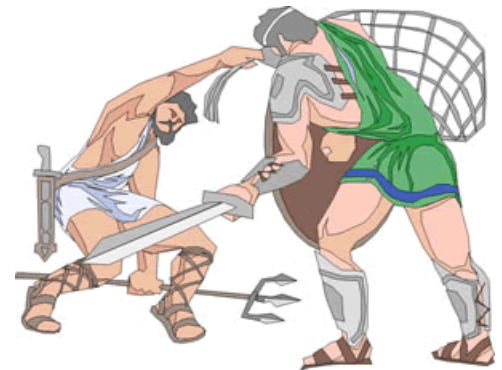
Egyptian **society depended** on slavery. In most cases slavers were **prisoners** of war, criminals and other people who could not pay their **debts**. The Egyptians bought slaves from neighbouring countries. They **shaved** their heads so that they could **identify** them easily .



Slavery in Greece was not as **harsh** as it was in Egypt. Greek **society** had different kinds of slaves. Some **household** slaves and other **public** workers were able to save the little money that they got and buy themselves **freedom**. Then they could become full **citizens**.

Slaves owned by the state were not **treated** well. They did hard work on farms and roads and were often **chained** to each other and **whipped**.

After the Romans had **conquered** many countries in Europe they took thousands of **prisoners** as slaves. As in Greece they were divided into private and **public** slaves. Until about 100 A.D. Roman **masters** held the power of life and death over their slaves. Some were trained to be **gladiators** who then fought against other **gladiators** and wild **beasts**.



By about 150 A.D. laws began to change and the Romans started **treating** their slaves in a more **humane** way. Under Constantine I, the first Christian **emperor**, new **laws** were passed .

## SLAVERY IN THE MIDDLE AGES

A new form of slavery called **serfdom developed** in the Middle Ages. It was like the slavery system of **ancient** times, **however**, **masters** did not own their **serfs**.



In most cases, **serfs** worked on the land of their **lords**. **In exchange** , they were given **protection**. Because they were very **loyal** and fought for their **lords** in times of war they often got a bit of land from them.

But from about 1400 **onwards** slavery started to play a bigger role in Europe. At that time Europeans started to get interested in new routes to **unexplored** lands.

**WORDS**

- **business** = making money through buying and selling products
- **Caribbean Sea** = a sea with many islands between Central America and South America
- **century** = a time of a hundred years
- **cotton** = plant with white hairs on its seeds, used for making cloth
- **explore** = to find out about a place that nobody has ever been to before
- **found** = to start something new
- **goods** = things that are produced so that they can be sold
- **law** = the rules in a country
- **master** = a person who has control over someone else
- **navigator** = a person who sails on a ship and explores other countries
- **pass** = here: to make
- **plantation** = a large area of land where crops like sugar, cotton and tea are grown
- **pots and pans** = metal containers used for cooking
- **property** = something that belongs to you
- **search** = look for—here : trip
- **serve** = to do work for someone
- **settlement** = a new town in a place where not many people have lived before
- **state** = say
- **tobacco** = a plant that produces leaves that you use in cigarettes
- **trade** = the buying and selling of something
- **triangular trade** = trade that involved three continents

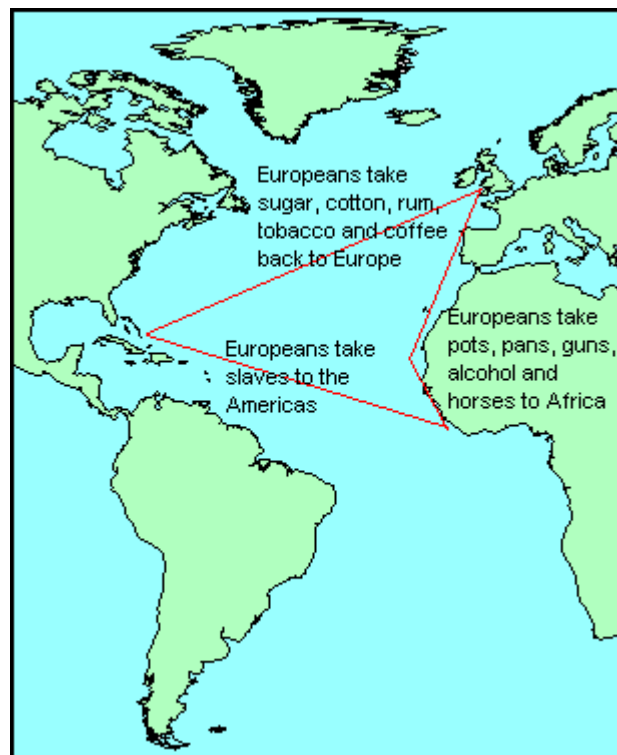
**AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE**

In the middle of the 15th century Portuguese **navigators** started **exploring** the coast of Africa on their **search** to find a sea route to India. They brought back thousands of slaves every year and sold them on the slave market. By the end of the **century** they also sold slaves to Spain.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus **founded** the first **settlement** in the New World on an island in **the Caribbean Sea**. A few years later African slaves were brought from Europe, later on they were imported directly from Africa.

Slave **trade** to the English colonies in America started in the early 17th century. At first the slaves were free after **servng** for their **masters** for 21 years. Later on, Virginia and Maryland **passed laws** that made Negroes slaves for the rest of their lives. The new **law** also **stated** that children who were born to slaves automatically became the **property** of the white **master**.

By the beginning of the 18th **century** slave **trade** was a big **business**. The British started what was called **Triangular Trade**. Factory **goods** were brought to Africa, slaves were taken to the West Indies, where they were sold to American **plantation** farmers, and sugar, **cotton**, rum and **tobacco** were brought back to Europe.



**WORDS**

- **abolish** = end
- **although** =while
- **break away from** =to be free from or move away from
- **carpenter** = a person who makes and repairs things made out of wood
- **Civil War** = a war in which groups from the same country fight against each other
- **conductor** = someone who collects money from passengers on a train
- **continue** = to go on
- **cotton** =plant with white hairs on its seeds, used for making cloth
- **crop** = a plant like wheat or rice that is grown and used as food
- **cruel** = bad
- **depend on** = need very much
- **economy** =the buying and selling of products
- **escape** = get away from something or someone that is dangerous
- **field hand** = worker on the field
- **maid** = young woman who helps in the house . She washes dishes, cooks and cleans up rooms
- **mason** = a person who cuts stone into pieces
- **plant** = to put plants or seeds into the ground so that they can grow
- **plantation** = a large area of land where crops like tea, sugar or cotton are grown
- **own** = have
- **route** = path or road from one place to another
- **secede** = to break away from
- **secretly** = without anybody knowing
- **skilled** = if you can do something very well; talented
- **spread** =expand, move to
- **statesman** = a political leader of a country who is said to be very wise
- **sugar cane** = sugar that grows in the form of a long plant in tropical regions
- **trade** = the buying and selling of things
- **treat** =behave towards someone
- **underground** = below the surface of the earth

**SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES**

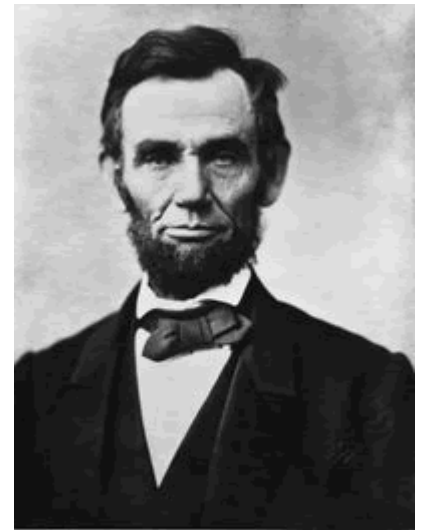
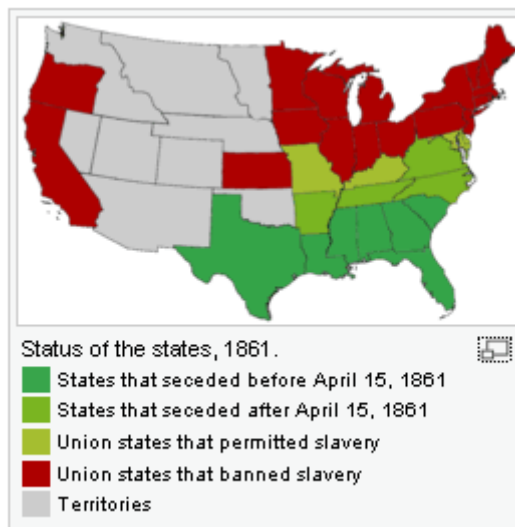
**Although** some Americans were against slavery, many of America's famous **statesmen** of that time - like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson **owned** slaves. In the northern states slave **trade** was soon **abolished** but it **continued** in the south.

The southern states needed slaves because their **economy depended** on them. Farmers **planted** tobacco, **cotton**, **sugar cane** and other **crops** and they made a lot of money with workers who didn't cost them anything.

Most slaves worked on fields and were called **field hands**. They were the ones who were **cruelly treated** and lived the hardest lives . Others worked as cooks and **maids**. Those who were **skilled** worked as **carpenters** or **masons**.

As cotton **plantations** grew and **spread** to the west so did slavery. By 1848 slaves could be found as far west as Texas.

As time went on more and more Northerners were against slavery. The Southerners thought that the only way to keep their right to **own** slaves was to **break away** from the United States. As more and more southern states **seceded** from the Union the **Civil War** started.



Abraham Lincoln

**THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

The Underground Railroad was a system of **escape** for American slaves in the 19th century. But it was not a railroad and it wasn't **underground** either. It got its name because people who were against slavery **secretly** helped slaves **escape** to the Northern states or Canada.

The slaves travelled at night. Both black and white people helped them, they gave them clothes and a place to sleep during the daytime. **Secret** railroad words were used as codes to help the slaves. Stopping places were called "stations" , different **routes** were "lines" , the people who helped the slaves were "**conductors**".

**WORDS**

- **Civil War** = a war in which groups from the same country fight against each other
- **concentration camp** = prison where political prisoners and other people are kept during a war
- **Confederate States of America** = the southern states of the USA which broke away from the north and became a separate country for four years
- **declare** = to say officially
- **deprive** = to take something away from someone
- **force** = have to
- **escape** = to get away from someone or something that is dangerous
- **human rights** = one of the basic rights that everyone should have, like the right to vote or the right to say what you want
- **labour camp** = place where people had to work and got no money for it
- **liberty** = freedom
- **make it** = get to, reach
- **officially** = formally
- **plantation** = a large area of land where crops like tea, sugar or cotton are grown
- **proclaim** = to say officially
- **Quaker** = member of a religious group that was founded in America. They don't have priests and are against violence
- **Soviet Union** = communist country that existed between 1917 and 1991
- **take steps** = here: to do something
- **victory** = a win

Most of the routes ran through the northern states. Once the slaves were in Canada they were free and could not be sent back again, but some of them didn't **make it** to the north. They got caught and were returned to the **plantations** in the south.

A few people became famous for helping many Negroes. Levi Coffin was a **Quaker** who turned his house into a place where slaves could stay. More than 3,000 slaves passed through. Harriet Tubman **escaped** slavery and helped other slaves escape.

On January 1, 1863 Abraham Lincoln **proclaimed** that slaves in the **Confederate States of America** were free. Two years later the Civil War ended with the North's **victory**.



Harriet Tubman

**SLAVERY IN RECENT TIMES**

In the 1900s other nations **took steps** to end slavery. After the Second World War, in which millions of people ended up in **concentration** and **labour camps** in Germany and the **Soviet Union**, the United Nations **declared** that all people had the right to life and **liberty**.

Today, although slavery doesn't **officially** exist, millions of people of all races and religions are **forced** to work for others. They are **deprived** of all **human rights**.



## WORDS

- **amazing** = so surprising that you can hardly believe it
- **autobiography** = a book in which someone writes about their own life
- **capture** = to catch a person and keep them as prisoner
- **cargo** = the products that are carried on a ship, train or airplane
- **Caribbean** = the islands between North, Central and South America
- **cargo deck** = the part of a ship that is reserved for goods
- **chief** = the leader of a tribe
- **comfortable** = to like something
- **common** = if something happens very often
- **disease** = illness
- **exercise** = to move around
- **experience** = things that have happened to you
- **fate** = future, things that will happen to someone
- **few** = not many
- **force** = if you have to do something that you don't want to do
- **human** = from a person
- **journey** = trip
- **leg** = part of something
- **lieutenant** = a lower rank in the army or navy
- **manage** = to somehow do something that is very hard to do
- **master** = a person who has control over someone else
- **owner** = the person who owns someone
- **pack** = to put as many people as possible into a small place or room
- **purchase** = buy
- **put up for sale** = to offer to someone
- **refuse** = not want to
- **resist** = refuse, not to go
- **sailor** = someone who works on a ship
- **seize** = to catch someone and see that they cannot get away
- **separate** = divide
- **Seven Years' War** = a war about French and English colonies fought in Europe and America between 1756 and 1763
- **ship** = transport
- **shut** = closed
- **society** = people in general
- **tie** = to hold together with a rope
- **trade** = the buying and selling of things
- **trader** = a person who buys and sells things
- **triangular** = three sides
- **treat** = to behave towards someone
- **unpleasant** = not very good
- **valuable** = very important
- **village** = very small town in the countryside
- **voyage** = long trip in a ship
- **wealthy** = very rich
- **widow** = a woman whose husband has died and who has not married again

## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF OLAUDAH EQUIANO

Millions of Africans were transported across the Atlantic and sold in America. Very **few** had the chance to describe their **experience** to the world. One who did was an African named Olaudah Equiano. He wrote an **amazing autobiography** that described his life's **journey** from freedom to slavery and back to freedom again.

Olaudah Equiano was born into a rich West African family in 1745. They lived far from the sea, in an area which is now part of Nigeria. Olaudah Equiano's father was a **village chief**. He had seven children and many slaves, so Equiano grew up in a slave **society**.

When he was eleven, Equiano was **captured** by African slave **traders**. He was alone at home with his sister when two men and a woman **seized** them and ran off with them to the nearest woods. Equiano and his sister tried to **resist** but their mouths were **shut** and their hands **tied**.



The slave **traders separated** him from his sister and during the next months he was sold from one African **master** to another. Finally a **wealthy widow** bought him. She **treated** him well and even let him sit at the table with her and her son. Everything here made him forget that he was a slave. One morning he was awoken and put on a slave ship that took him to America.

The **journey** from Africa to America was called "The Middle Passage." It was the middle **leg** of the **triangular slave trade** which began and ended in Europe. Three or four hundred Africans were **packed** into the ship's **cargo deck** which was very small. You couldn't even stand up in it. The air was hot and the smell of **human** bodies was **unpleasant**.

**Disease** and death were **common**. Up to 25 percent of a slave ship's Africans died during the **voyage**. The captain and crew fought to keep their **valuable cargo** alive. They made the Africans dance on deck for **exercise**. Sometimes they **forced** the slaves to eat, so that they wouldn't die.

When the slave ship carrying Olaudah Equiano and hundreds of other Africans finally reached Barbados they were soon **put up for sale**. No one **purchased** Equiano, who was still just a boy. So he was **shipped** north to a plantation in Virginia. His new **owner** was a **lieutenant** in the British navy named Michael Henry Pascal. He gave Equiano a new name but the slave **refused** to be called by it. Under Pascal, Equiano learned to be a **sailor**. He spent much time in England, where he also **managed** to educate himself. He even fought for Britain in the **Seven Years' War**.

After a few years, Equiano had grown **comfortable** with his **fate**. So he was shocked once again when his owner sold him and he returned to the **Caribbean**

## WORDS

- **abolition** = the official end of something
- **accept** = to agree to or say yes to
- **ankle** = the moveable part of your body between your foot and leg
- **anti-slavery** = against slavery
- **ashore** = on land
- **audience** = here : the people who read a book
- **autobiography** = a book in which someone writes about their own life
- **beg** = to ask for something that you want very much
- **block** = to be in the way
- **Caribbean** = the islands between North , Central and South America
- **carpenter** = a person who makes and repairs things made out of wood
- **freeman** = someone who is not a slave
- **head** = to go towards
- **immediate** = at once
- **mast** = tall pole on a ship on which you hang flags or sails
- **merchant** = person who buys and sells things
- **on the side** = secretly, so that nobody knows about it
- **owner** = the person who owns someone
- **persuade** = to make someone decide to do something
- **public speaker** = a person who speaks at places where a lot of people can listen
- **purchase** = buy
- **Quaker** = member of a religious group that was founded in America . They don't have priests and are against violence
- **racism** = if you do not treat people the same because they have a different skin colour
- **release** = to let go
- **rope** = very strong, thick string mad by twisting together many thinner strings
- **struggle** = fight
- **tie** = to hold together with a rope
- **trade** = to buy and sell things
- **treat** = to behave towards someone
- **unexpected** = surprising, because you did not think it would happen
- **urge** = a strong wish
- **wrist** = part of your body where your hands and arms meet

where his new **owner** was a **Quaker merchant** from Philadelphia : Robert King. King **treated** Equiano well. But Equiano had tasted freedom and couldn't **accept** a slave's life anymore. His **urge** for freedom grew even greater when King put him to work aboard a **Caribbean** slave ship.

Equiano didn't want to give up. He began **trading** glasses and other objects **on the side**. As time went on he saved 40 pounds (equal to about \$3,700 today) which was enough to **purchase** his freedom.

As a **freeman**, Equiano continued working as a sailor for years. He travelled a lot , but his personal **struggle** against **racism** and slavery continued. One day, a ship's captain decided to make Equiano a slave again. He was **tied up** with **ropes** around his **ankles** and **wrists**. Then white sailors put him on the **mast** where he hung all night long . In the morning, he **begged** to be **released**. The crew brought him down because his body was **blocking** the sails. . The ship's **carpenter persuaded** the captain to put Equiano **ashore**. There he thanked God for "this **unexpected release**" and found another ship that was **heading** to Jamaica.

He returned to England and became a **public speaker**. In 1789, he wrote his **autobiography**, The Life of Olaudah Equiano. It was an **immediate** best seller— the first **anti-slavery** book to reach a wide **audience**. Equiano became England's leading speaker for blacks and the **abolition** of slavery.

Olaudah Equiano died in 1797. Ten years later, Britain and the United States **abolished** the slave **trade**.

