

Some information about the Transatlantic Slave Trade

It has been estimated that between 1700 and 1810, British merchants transported almost three million enslaved African people across the Atlantic Ocean.

- The development of racism is linked to slavery. People who were not from Europe were thought of as inferior, and because they were different, it was acceptable to buy and sell them.

- As many British people in this period could not read or write, the truth about Transatlantic slavery was not widely known at first.

- Christianity was very important in people's lives at this time and many people believed that the Bible justified slavery.

- There was a belief that Africans were heathens and that slavery would help them accept Christianity.

- The profits made during Transatlantic slavery can be seen throughout Britain. Many of Liverpool's buildings and institutions were created by merchants who made their money from the trade.

- In 1999, the City of Liverpool made an official apology for the part the port played in Transatlantic slavery.

- Abolitionism was a movement to stop enslavement and Transatlantic slavery. Members of this movement are called Abolitionists.

- It took many years of campaigning by Abolitionists and the resistance of slaves themselves to finally end slavery. The Slave Trade Act of 1807 outlawed the trade, but not slavery itself, and it was not until 1843 that it was eliminated throughout the British Empire.

- In Liverpool, there was resistance to Abolition, though there were influential figures like William Roscoe who was a prominent campaigner against the trade.

- Today, slavery continues around the globe and is arguably more widespread than the enslavement of Africans in the 18th and early 19th century, if less obviously barbaric.