

Key:
Look at the pictures in the centre, find a number on the image, and look up the captions below:

1. Ancient Egyptian and Nubian empires ruled themselves and others for many thousands of years. One of the greatest historical figures of all time is the legendary Imhotep, of Egypt (about 2300BC); he was an architect of the highest order and a serving Prime Minister; he is portrayed with prominent African features and is credited as being the earliest recorded genius in medicine, 2000 years before Hippocrates. Astronomy played a strong role in the building of the pyramids in Egypt; the knowledge and spirituality of the time would have played a big role in the life of 2. Queen Tiy, mother of Tutankhamun; but it would be many millennia before humans would physically reach the stars; a descendant of our ancient forbears, 3. Mae Jemison, was the first Black woman in space, aboard the space shuttle Endeavour in 1992. Is it just me or is there a resemblance?

4. The original Temple of Horus at Edfu, Egypt, which the Temple Mills in Leeds was architecturally inspired by. The god Horus is portrayed as a falcon, his eye can also be found on the back of the American one dollar bill.

5. While Rome conquered parts of Africa, loyal servants from Africa ruled in Roman Britain too; Emperor Septimus Severus was stationed in York where he is credited with handing over independence back to Britain. We know he ordered certain food stuff from Africa and interacted with Black Africans stationed in Yorkshire. The Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali & Songhai came into being further south in around 500AD and ruled their lands until the 1600's when European conquests would lead to the division of Africa into unnatural states often ruled by brutal colonial regimes. Timbuktu, Mali had a number of highly developed societies before it was colonised as an important British trading post, the image is a colossal Temple in Timbuktu.

6. Leeds Town Hall hosted a large Anti-Slavery Meeting in 1859, this is a flier produced to be handed out and features a newspaper clipping advertising three African house servants for sale in North America. Wilson Armistead was also the president of the Leeds Anti-Slavery Society and invited many prominent African Americans to Leeds.

7. Slavery was common in Africa and most of the world, many were taken to the Middle East: During the Zanj Revolt of the 9th century, (868-883 AD), tens of thousands of people met their deaths in lower Iraq. The Zanj were a group of enslaved East Africans taken to the salt pans of the Shatt al-Arab in order to make the land arable. Their revolts led to the successful overthrow of their masters in Baghdad. When European demand for labour began to remove more enslaved Africans than was healthy - the King of Congo, in 1526, wrote to his counterpart, the King of Portugal, complaining of the devastation to his kingdom and formally requested he stopped removing his people. Unfortunately, a hundred years previously, five Papal Bulls decreed that Portugal had the rights... to appropriate the kingdoms, goods and possessions of Africans, and to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery or to destroy them from the earth - by force or by barter.

8. This is a plan depicting the layout of a slave ship. This model would have carried 306 enslaved Africans, though it is thought that nearly a third did not survive the appalling conditions. This image was an effective tool in the hands of abolitionists, which spearheaded the first popular mass political movement of ordinary people - to stand up for what was right.

9. A woodcut depicts the cramped conditions in which enslaved Africans were kept for the duration of their voyage across the Atlantic. [10.] This image depicts enslaved Africans being forced overboard. Olaudah Equiano's autobiography highlights the case of 131 Africans being thrown overboard the ship 'Zong', to make corrupt insurance claims. Banks and insurers were created out of and made the most profits from the triangular trade.

11. After exchanging British manufactured goods (pipes, blankets and other WOOLEN goods, guns and beads etc...) for 'slaves' - the ships then arrive from Africa in the America's (including the Caribbean), where captured Africans are taken to auction and sold. The ships were then re-loaded with rum, sugar, spices, tobacco and gold etc.. before returning back to Europe - and setting off again. The Leeds and Liverpool canal enabled Yorkshire made products to also be exchanged for 'slaves' and provide clothing etc... for the plantations. Manufacturing, which provided work for millions in Europe, was never encouraged in British colonies, which is why North America had to fight for the right to an independent economy. Africa and the Caribbean suffered high unemployment after slavery was abolished and have had to migrate to manufacturing centres globally, ever since.

12. Nanny of Jamaica was a formidable 18th century military strategist, as the British would discover to their cost; eventually a treaty had to be signed for peace, Nanny and her Maroons could not be conquered. With her determined fighting spirit, healing nature and cunning strength - Nanny inspired a unity amongst diverse groupings of enslaved and free Africans in the island of Jamaica and beyond - to this very day - never yielding to captivity. Big up!

13. Toussaint L'Overture was a master strategist who led successful campaigns with his fellow Africans to defeat a mighty French army, freeing Haiti from slavery in 1798. North America gained a similar independence just 22 years previously, but the world treated Haiti very different. Once the strongest economy in the Caribbean, immediate trade exclusions and restrictions now bear witness to Haiti as one of the poorest nations in the world. Haiti deserves our respect and reverence as an international symbol of resistance against gross inhumanity. There are thousands more people who resisted slavery and also deserving of acknowledgement.

14. Frederick Douglass visited Leeds in 1859, he spoke at Leeds Town Hall against slavery in North America. Alongside him was Sarah Parker Remond, who spoke on behalf of women who were at the mercy and whim of licentious southern planters. Frederick was born into slavery, but through self-education he created his own freedom and became one of America's leading speakers and statesmen. Supported by British friends he set up his own newspaper and recruited for the first [15.] African American troops during the American Civil War - the ensuing cotton famine would lead to hardships in the manufacturing north of England, which depended upon cotton from American plantations; many in Yorkshire starved to death due to unemployment, but the majority of workers still supported the African's right to freedom.

16. Harriet Tubman escorted more than 300 enslaved Africans to freedom in several trips over ten years; she told Frederick Douglass that 'she never lost a single passenger'. She is the most well-known conductor of the 'Underground Railroad' that helped enslaved Africans to relative freedom. Similar to Douglass, Tubman was born into slavery and made her own escape. Her reputation for clever disguises and strategies created a substantial reward for her capture, but dem never ketch her.

17. Mary Seacole was lauded in her lifetime, alongside Florence Nightingale, but after her death was forgotten for almost 100 years. Today she is noted not only for her bravery and medical skills but as "a woman who succeeded despite the racial prejudice of influential sections of Victorian society".

18. The Right Honourable Marcus Mosiah Garvey was a Jamaican national who dedicated his life and work toward restoring pride and dignity to traumatised Africans who endured enslavement, persecution, injustices and exclusion. Travelling extensively, he arrived in London and found employment at the African Times and Orient Review in 1911; the editor was an Egyptian born actor/journalist named Duse Mohamed, who lived for a few years in Yorkshire as an actor/writer and would go on to become influential in the growth of Islamic movements in North America, where he joined and assisted Garvey's United Negro Improvement Association. As in Haiti, Garvey was punished for helping Africans in the America's to self-realise their greatness, from antiquity to the present. For resisting oppression he was deported from North America in 1922. After a permanent move to England in 1935, Marcus Garvey died in London in 1940. Nearly 25 years later, his body was returned to Jamaica - where he was declared a national hero.

19. On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks became famous for refusing to obey bus driver James Blake's order that she give up her seat. This action of civil disobedience started the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which is one of the largest movements against racial segregation. In addition, this launched Martin Luther King, Jr., who was involved with the boycott, to a position of awe among his people. She has had a lasting legacy worldwide.

20. Martin Luther King: American civil rights leader and great speaker. The youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964; like Frederick Douglass, he was a constant campaigner for world peace, before his untimely assassination in 1968. Malcolm X, was born Malcolm Little, his parents were supporters of Marcus Garvey's United Negro Improvement Association; leading to his preacher father's execution on train-tracks by the Ku Klux Klan as Black voices in America insisted on being heard, in regard to injustices. A significant figure in the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X would experience another name change on a visit to Mecca, which transformed his views of the world. He visited Sheffield in 1964, just a few months before his assassination.

1596 & 1601 Queen Elizabeth 1 issued orders to expel all Africans from England.

1562 John Hawkins becomes the first English trans-Atlantic slaver- goes to Sierra Leone.

1526 King of Congo wrote to the damage of slavery to his kingdom in a letter to the king of Portugal, asking firm to stop enslaving his subjects.

1502 First enslaved Africans in the Americas.

500-1600 Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali & Songhai.

1500's

1600's

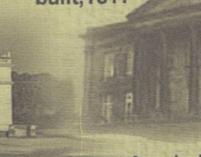
St John Church was one of the earliest stone built buildings in Leeds, built in 1634



Harewood House build 1700



The Mansion, Roundhay built 1811

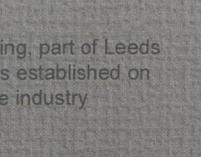
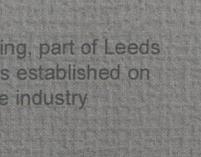
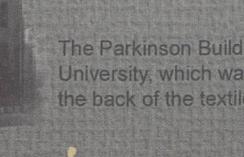


County Arcade, Leeds 1898. This was the last of the main shopping arcades to be built in Leeds between 1875-1900



1800's

Leeds Town Hall, built in 1855



Leeds Quaker, manufacturer and abolitionist, Wilson Armistead, wrote in 1848: "...the master spirits of ancient Greece, performed pilgrimages into Africa in search of knowledge; there they sat at the feet of ebon philosophers to drink in wisdom! How many multitudes flocked from all parts of the world to listen to the instructions of the African Euclid, who, 300 years before Christ, was at the head of the most celebrated mathematical school in the world?..." and "To the Ethiopians we are justified in ascribing the highest attainments. They appear to have been the parents of Egyptian science and civilization, and attained, as existing monuments attest, a high eminence in many arts in the very earliest periods of history."



1791-1804 Toussaint L'Overture led a successful uprising by enslaved Africans in St. Domingue.

1789 Olaudah Equiano's autobiography published. He visits Yorkshire in 1719, to speak against slavery.

1787 'Thought and Sentiments on the evil of slavery' by Quoba Ottobah Cugoano published.

1787 400 ex-enslaved Africans from USA, Nova Scotia and UK settle in Sierra Leone.

1783 131 enslaved African thrown overboard during the 'middle passage' from the ship 'Zong'.

1760 Enslaved Africans uprising in Jamaica, led by Tacky.

1759 Foundation of Leeds Harewood House laid with wealth from enslaved Africans in Barbados and Jamaica. Completed in 1771.

1730-1739 First Maroon War in Jamaica. British agree terms.

1712 Willie Lynch speech about 'the Making of a Slave'

1839 49 Enslaved Africans take over slave ship 'Amistad'.

1838 Enslaved Africans in British colonies freed.

1833 Act became law. Ending slave trade in UK.

1831 Enslaved Africans uprising in Jamaica led by Sam Sharpe.

1831 Mary Prince's autobiography published.

1807 British Parliamentary Act signed to end the capture and transportation of Africans across the Atlantic.

1800 10,000 people of African descent in the UK.

1981 & 1984 Street uprisings in various UK cities against police harassment, unemployment and racism.

1975 Bonfire Night Youth Uprising.

1969 Death of David Oluwale in Leeds, two police officers jailed.

1967 Birth of Leeds Carnival - the first Caribbean carnival in Europe.

1930s Campaign for 'free' Africans to return to West Africa

1930s Marcus Garvey's 'Black Star Liner' operating.

1919 Lynch mobs attack people of African descent including ex-soldiers in Liverpool and Cardiff.

1913 John Archer elected as Mayor of Battersea, London - to become the first Black mayor in the UK.

