



Remembering Slavery 2007

History, despite its wrenching pain,
Cannot be unlived, and if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.

Maya Angelou, 1993, US author and poet

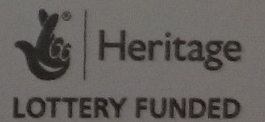
Leg irons 1800s - interpreted in ceramics by
Sight Service, South Shields



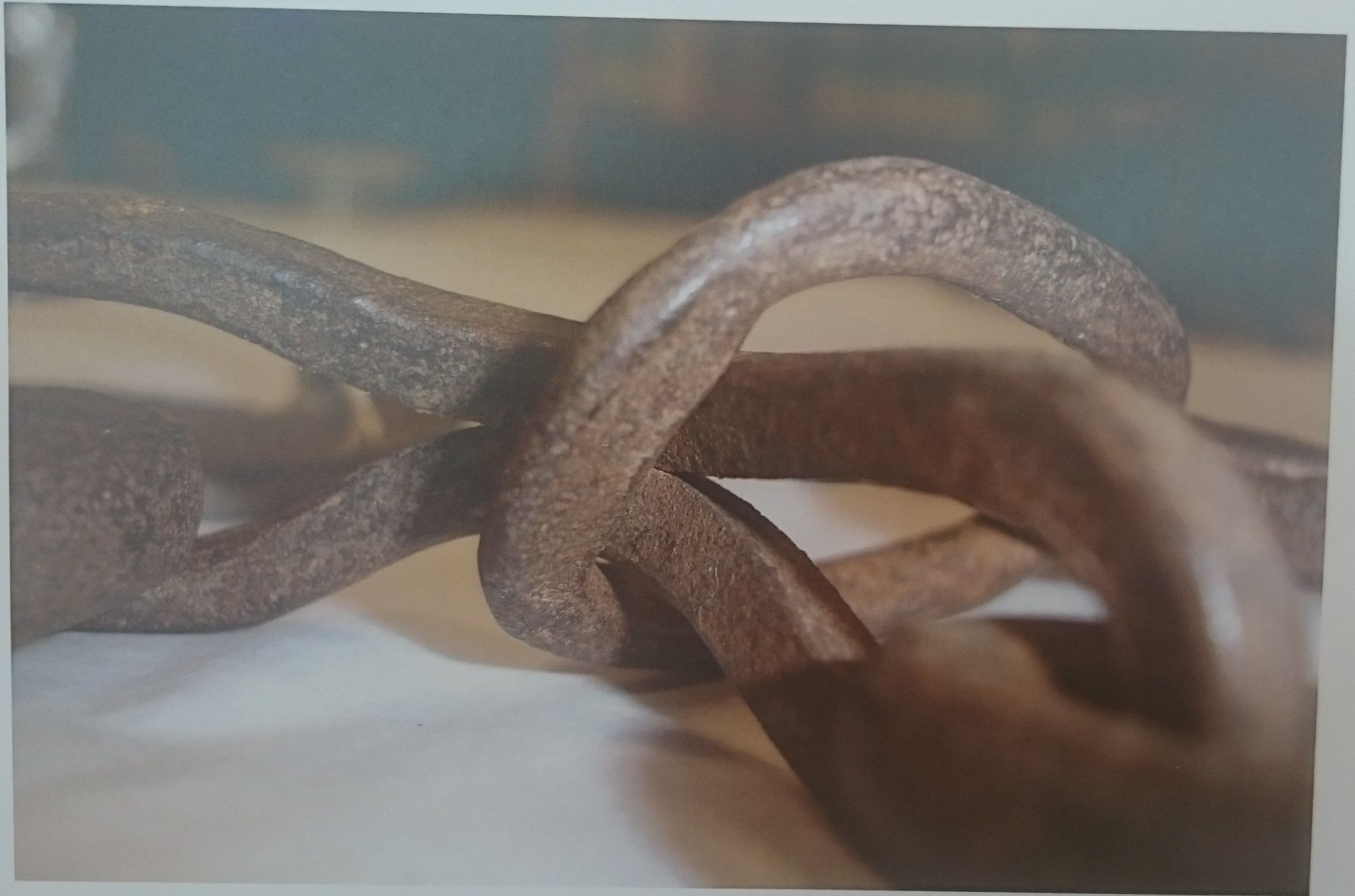
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What is slavery?

- Slavery exists when a man, woman or child is owned by another human being.
- They become the property of a slave owner through birth, kidnap or purchase.
- They are only valued for their labour and are bought and sold like goods or animals.
- Enslaved people have no freedom or personal rights to travel, get married, go to school, vote or follow their own religion.

Image of slave irons 1800s taken
by Futures Plus Gateshead



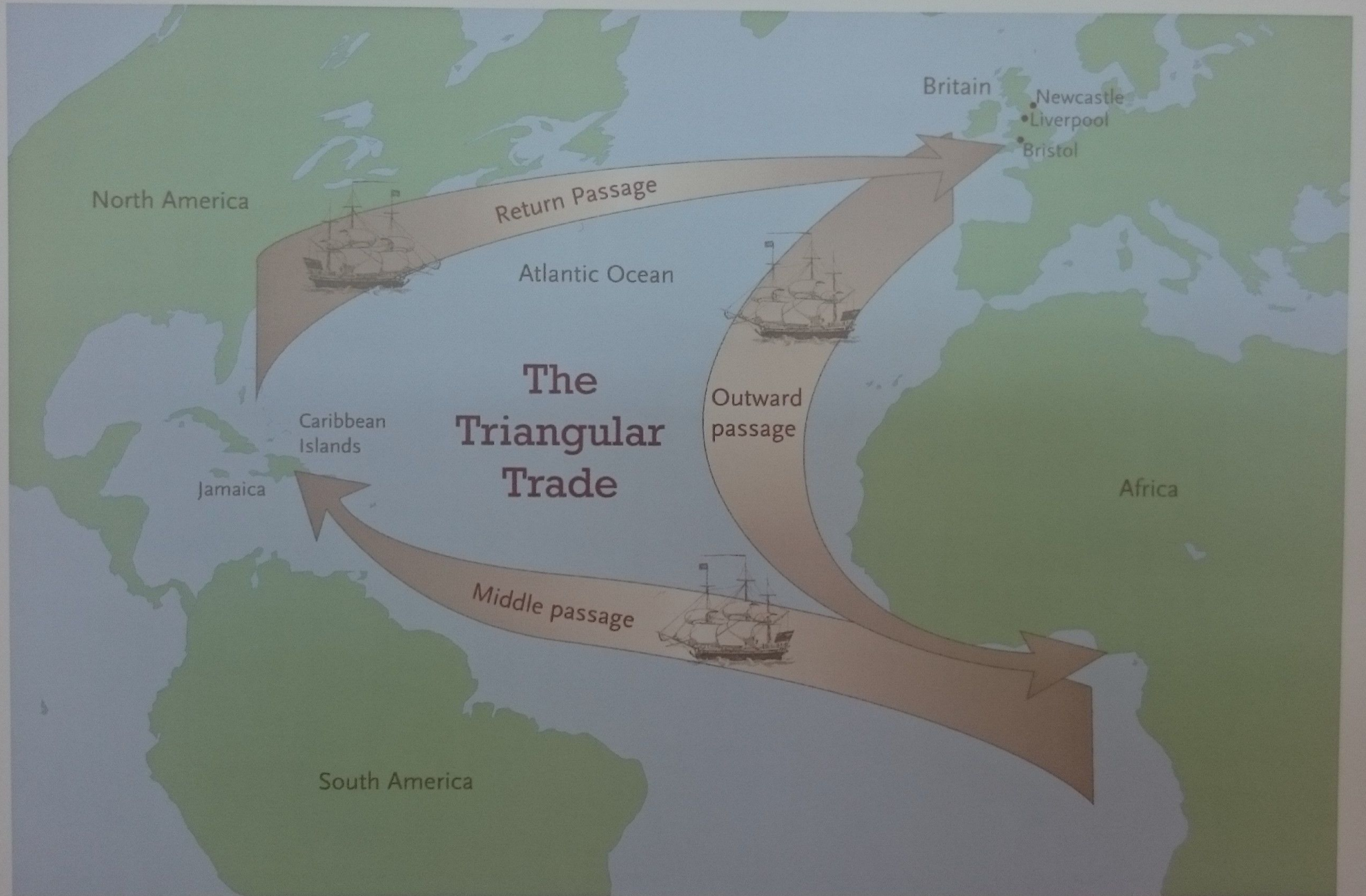
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The Triangular Trade

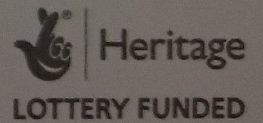
The trans-Atlantic slave trade was the most extensive and brutal form of slavery known to human kind. It involved the kidnap and sale of 10-12 million African people to European traders along the West Coast of Africa. The enslaved Africans were then transported in ships to the Caribbean Islands and the Americas where they were forced to work on plantations growing sugar cane, cotton and rice. This vicious trade started in the 1400s and by the 1790s British people were playing a leading role in it.



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A sweet cup of tea

As the women sipped their tea and the men drew on their pipes, how many thought of the enslaved fieldworkers cutting the sugar cane or picking tobacco leaves?

By the 1700s the demand from European countries for sugar and other slave produced goods such as rice, cotton, rum, coffee and tobacco was the driving force behind the trans-Atlantic slave trade. New social rituals connected with smoking and the drinking of tea, coffee and rum emerged in private homes and coffee houses.

The tea set shows a couple drinking tea served by a young black domestic servant. During the time of the slave trade it was fashionable for wealthy households to have a black servant.

Image taken by Futures Plus Gateshead



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Industrialists

The very successful Crowley ironworks at Swalwell and Winlaton, in Gateshead, supplied slave irons for the slave trade and tools used on slave plantations. Amongst the many iron goods made at the Crowley forges were simple hoes and axes. They were shipped out to America and used by enslaved workers in the backbreaking work converting marshes into rice fields in South Carolina.

Image: slave irons 1800s



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Goal Works &c



Newcastle upon Tyne

Merchants and ship owners

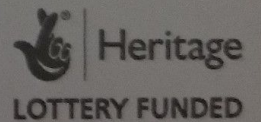
Coal from local pits was shipped out to the Caribbean Islands. It heated the pans and boilers used in the conversion of raw sugar into pure sugar. North East merchants also transported slave-produced sugar, cotton, mahogany or rum to ports around the world, including to Newcastle.



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