

My book about

Thomas Clarkson

and the Anti-Slavery Movement

FIND OUT HOW
I FOUGHT
SLAVERY
AND HOW YOU
CAN HELP FIGHT
IT TODAY!



Name: _____



Wisbech
& Fenland
Museum



Thomas Clarkson and the Anti-Slavery Movement

WELCOME TO MY STORY.
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE EVILS OF THE SLAVE TRADE
AND WHAT I DID TO HELP STOP IT.
THIS IS AN INTERACTIVE BOOK, SO YOU'LL HAVE
TO READ THE TEXT AND STUDY THE PICTURES TO
FIND THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS.



The picture below is how Wisbech looked when Thomas Clarkson was growing up in the 1760s. Things were very different then.

Make a list of the differences between where you live today and the Wisbech that Clarkson would have known when he was young.



Wisbech in 1760

Where I live today

I WAS BORN HERE IN WISBECH GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN 1760.
 THAT'S NOT QUITE AS SILLY AS IT SOUNDS, MY DAD WAS
 THE HEADMASTER - AND SO WE LIVED THERE.
 AT LEAST I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO VERY FAR TO GET TO SCHOOL!



The Old Grammar School, Wisbech, birthplace of Thomas & John Clarkson
 Courtesy of Mrs Margaret Caw

HIS EARLY YEARS

Thomas was born on the 28th March 1760 and was the elder son of John and Ann Clarkson.

His father was the headmaster of the Free Grammar School in Wisbech and he was also a curate of All Saints Church in the neighbouring parish of Walsoken. He caught a fever from a poor parishioner that he visited and died when Thomas was only six years old. Thomas and the rest of his family had to move into a nearby house owned by his mother's cousin.

Thomas grew up with his younger brother, John, and his sister Anne. The two boys both went to the Grammar School, and when Thomas was 15 he went to St. Paul's School in London. His intention was to follow his father into the church and four years later he went to his father's old college, St. John's in Cambridge.

THIS IS THE PAGE FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER THAT RECORDS MY BAPTISM.

CAN YOU LOCATE MY ENTRY?
 COPY IT DOWN HERE.

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE
 SPELLING OF MY FIRST NAME?

Baptisms 1760		
April 23	Mafsey Dau. of Robt. & Jane	July 8
14	Jane Flanders	12
27	Tho. son of John & Susan Lupton	14
May 5	John Son of Paul & Bridget Sponser	17
9	Elizabeth Dau. of John & Elizab Dale	20
9	Martha Dau. of Robt. & Ann Garnham	20
12	Ann Dau. of Tho. & Alice Woodward	27
19	Charles Son of Rich. & Mary Jackson	27
20	Elizab. Dau. of George & Mary Merling	28
25	William Son of John & Isabella Grigson	Aug 11
26	Tho. Son of John Clarkson & Ann	11

A LIFE-CHANGING ESSAY

In 1785 Clarkson entered an essay competition set by his university. The subject of the essay was whether it was lawful to make men slaves against their will, - and it had to be written in Latin!

Clarkson won first prize but, more importantly, doing the research for his essay made him realise just how evil the slave trade was. He felt that somebody really should do something to put an end to it. It was on his way to London to see if he could get his essay published that he realised IT WAS HIM!



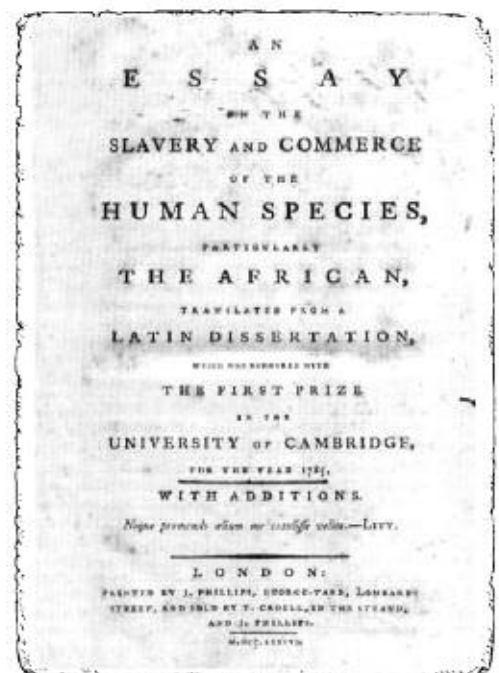
A BEST SELLER

His brother, John, helped him to translate the essay into English and to expand it into a book. It was the first publication criticising the slave trade to reach a wide audience - and it made him a bit of a celebrity.

His publisher introduced him to some well-known people with similar views and twelve of them formed a committee with Thomas as the leader. They called it 'The Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade' and it was the first anti-slavery organisation in Britain not tied specifically to just one religious group.

Their aims were to raise public awareness about the cruelties of the slave trade and to lobby MPs to the point where parliament would be forced to change the law.

On the right is the title page from Thomas's book, which was first published in June 1786.

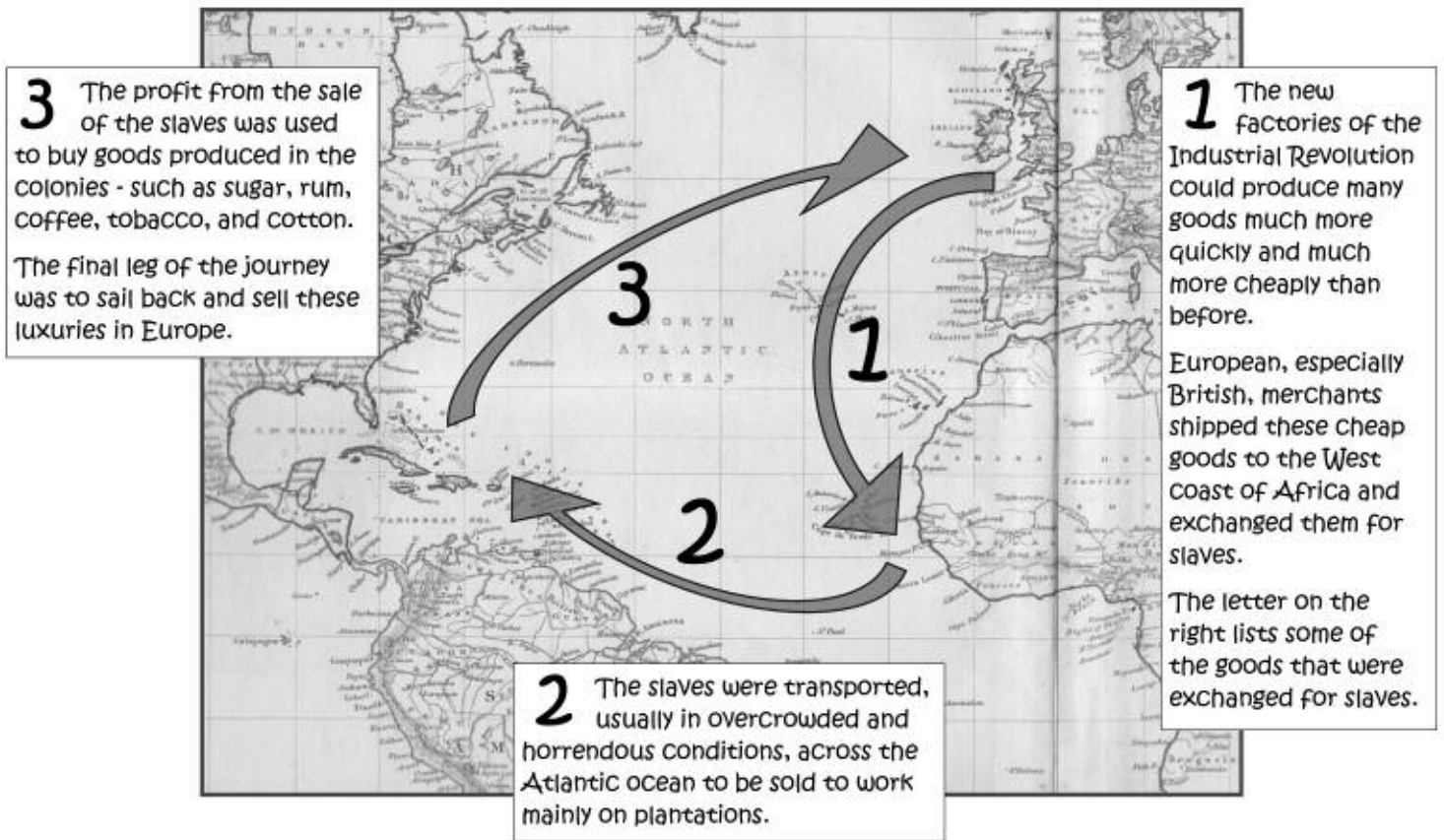


DID YOU KNOW?

John, Thomas's brother, led 1,192 freed slaves back across the Atlantic to start a new colony in Sierra Leone, Africa.

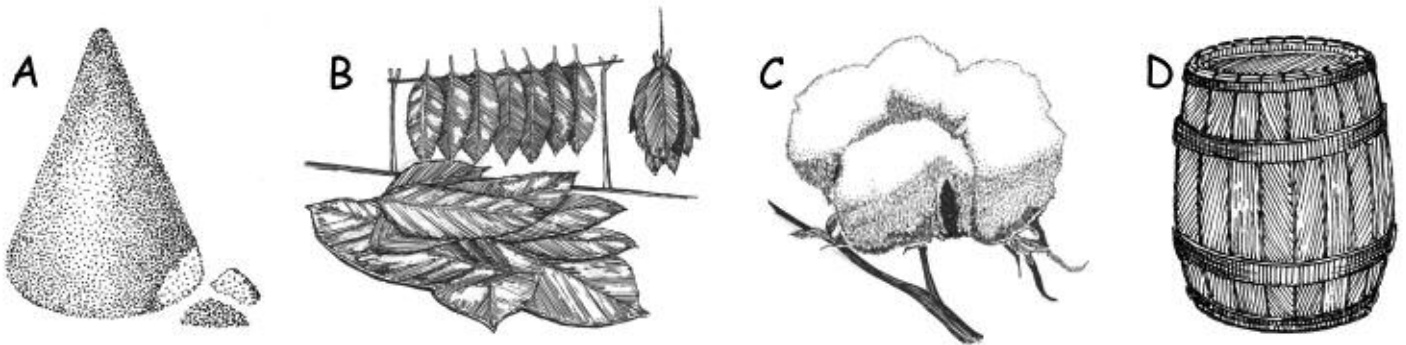
The Triangular Slave Trade

The Triangular Slave Trade grew because an industrial revolution in Europe was producing large quantities of cheap goods, the new colonies in the West Indies and South America were desperately short of workers, and the luxury goods being produced there were in great demand in Europe.



Many people profited from the triangular slave trade, not only the ship and the slave owners, but also the manufacturers of the goods that were exchanged for the slaves.

The evidence can still be seen today. Many of Britain's greatest institutions were created with wealth derived from slavery and ports such as Bristol and Liverpool acquired their economic importance and municipal splendour as a direct result of their involvement in the slave trade.



These illustrations above show some of the luxury goods that were shipped to Europe. They look very different from how we would expect them to appear today. Read what was transported on the third leg of the Triangular Slave Trade and see if you can guess what they are.

A

B

C

D



DID YOU KNOW?

Many Africans used a form of money made in North Wales!

Find out more about this on the opposite page.

Dear Gentlemen

Sir, Captain John Burrow arrived at this river on the fourth day of May with a very fine cargo, only we want more iron bar and romalles and powder and ordinance and shot as them be finest thing for our trade as we will send Captain Burrow away 450 or 460 slaves after October. I hope his ships carry 450 or 460 slaves and I hope he will send by tender 340 or 330 slaves. I think so, as you may, get the cargo ready before he come home. I don't keep him long and I think he'll get to Liverpool 15 or 20 day March — Mind send very little salt and mugs as you may. Send round white and round green and round yellow bead for money, salt and mugs. I wish no more war for England.

I am your dear
Egboyoung Effeong

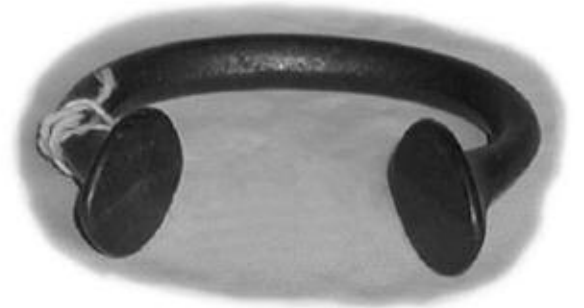
Old Calibar,
July 23rd
1783

Were all of the slave traders white?

No, many Africans were also involved in the slave trade.

This letter was written by a black African to a merchant in Liverpool asking for certain goods to be sent in exchange for slaves.

You can see the original letter at The Wisbech and Fenland Museum.



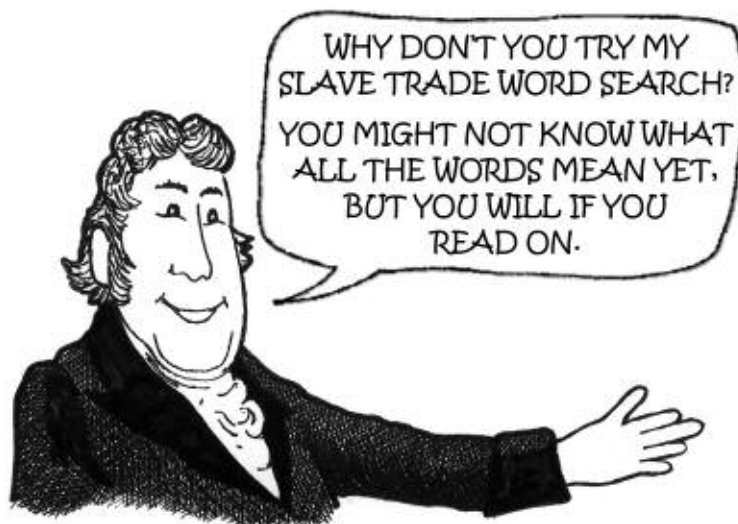
Although this bracelet-like object is not mentioned in Egboyoung Effeong's letter, many captains brought them as part of their cargo to be traded for slaves.

Made from copper or bronze, they were called 'manillas' and were used as a form of money on the west coast of Africa.

Many of those carried by British ships were produced by the Parys Mountain mines on Anglesey in North Wales.

Did Europeans invent the slave trade?

Slavery and slave trading were not new 'inventions'. The Egyptians, the ancient Greeks and the Romans all had slaves, and slavery had existed in Africa long before the first contact with Europeans. The main difference was that in the 17th and 18th centuries slavery became a huge business and the slaves were seen purely as commodities and not as human beings.



The Slave Trade Word Search

E Z S A S N O I T A T N A L P
H C C U W A U J U D Y O V I Y
C B R C G L A N R Y T I G V S
W L T O U A O X K A L T V L Y
G S A E F T R A C J E I P O N
F A I R T R A D E E U L B Q C
N C J O K P E Z Y L R O O C O
E A C J A S B B O L C B E L U
Y B N B S R O O L X K A Q G P
E R E Q I T P N Y I J Z U H A
G A E S D R R A W N W G I H E
O M T V E O C C A B O T A W C
F O O V A C H E S T T C N I Z
L M I G D L D O O U P G O U J
F L P K X X S S P W L F C S J

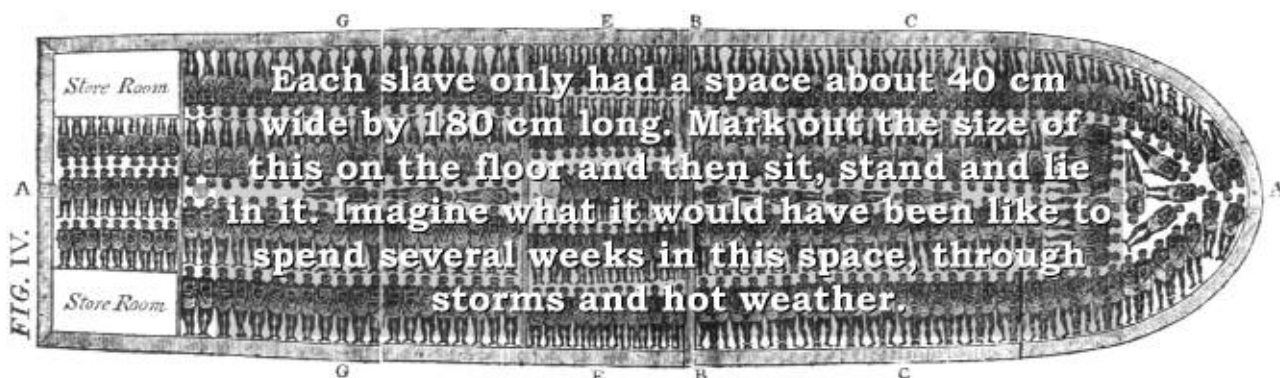
ABOLITION	BRISTOL	CHEST
CLARKSON	COTTON	CRUELTY
EQUIANO	FAIRTRADE	LIVERPOOL
PLANTATIONS	SLAVERY	SUGAR
TOBACCO	WILBERFORCE	



Life aboard a slave ship crossing the Atlantic

The punishments given to slaves, the conditions that they travelled in and the quantity and quality of their food and drink were not very different to those of the crew. This is not to say that the conditions on board were great, just not unusual for the time!

Slaves were not normally mistreated during the voyage, but this was more to do with economics than to kindness. Alive and in good health they were worth a great deal of money. Sick and injured slaves were worth much less and sometimes could not be sold at all.



Slave Rations

It was quickly realised that the slaves would have a better chance of surviving the journey if they were fed the type of food that they were used to.

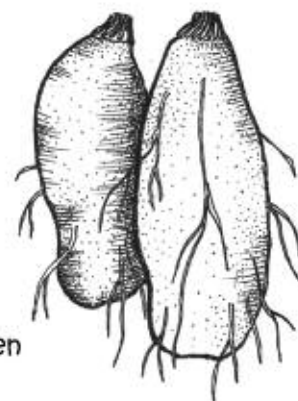
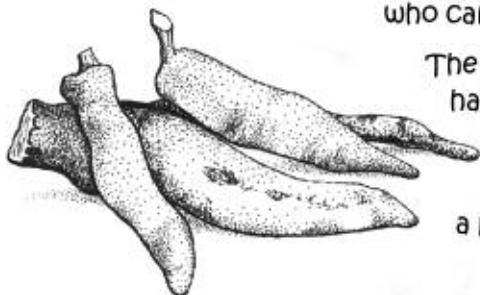
The food in the wooden bowl is millet and would have been given to slaves who originated from the northern part of the Guinea coast. It would have been boiled so that it resembled rice.

The vegetable to the upper right, which looks like a sweet potato with roots, is manioc. It is also sometimes called cassava and is a starchy vegetable used in a similar way to potatoes. It was fed to the slaves who came from the region around the Congo river.

The vegetable on the left is a yam and would have been given to slaves who came from the Bight of Biafra

The wooden cup was called a pannikin and held half a pint of water.

Each slave was only allowed three of these a day.

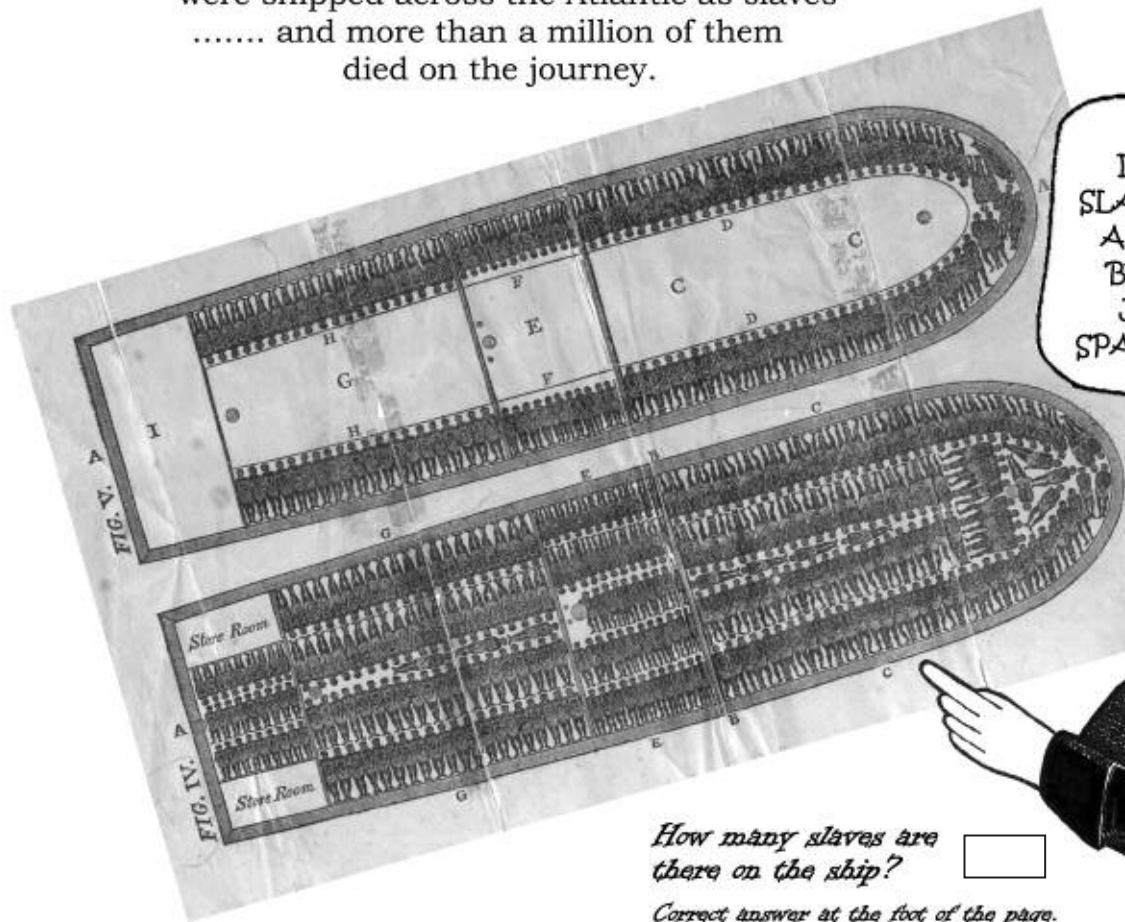


Slaves sometimes felt that their situation was so bad that they tried to commit suicide. One way of doing this was by simply refusing to eat. When this happened the sailors fed them by force, using special tools to open their mouths. Another way slaves tried to kill themselves was by jumping overboard to drown.

Not all slaves accepted their fate without a struggle. Surviving records suggest that on one in every eight to ten voyages the slaves rose up and tried to overpower the crew. In most cases these rebellions were unsuccessful and the ringleaders were usually brutally punished or executed.

The second stage of the Triangular Trade Route, which took the slaves across the Atlantic from Africa to the Americas, was known as the 'Middle Passage'.

It has been estimated that between 1650 and 1850 more than ten million Africans were shipped across the Atlantic as slaves
 and more than a million of them died on the journey.



I USED THIS ILLUSTRATION OF SLAVES PACKED ONTO A SHIP CALLED THE 'BROOKES' TO SHOW JUST HOW LITTLE SPACE EACH ONE HAD.



How many slaves are there on the ship?
 Correct answer at the foot of the page.

Thrown Overboard to Drown

A slave ship called the 'Zong' set sail with 17 crew and 400 slaves, far too many for its size. The slaves were chained together and each one had "less room than a man in a coffin".

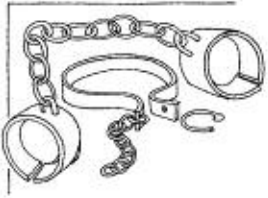


Sixty slaves and seven crew died from overcrowding, malnutrition and disease before the Captain, Sir Luke Collingwood, decided to throw 133 sick slaves overboard. He regarded them as 'damaged cargo' and expected that the insurance company would repay the £30 that they each cost.

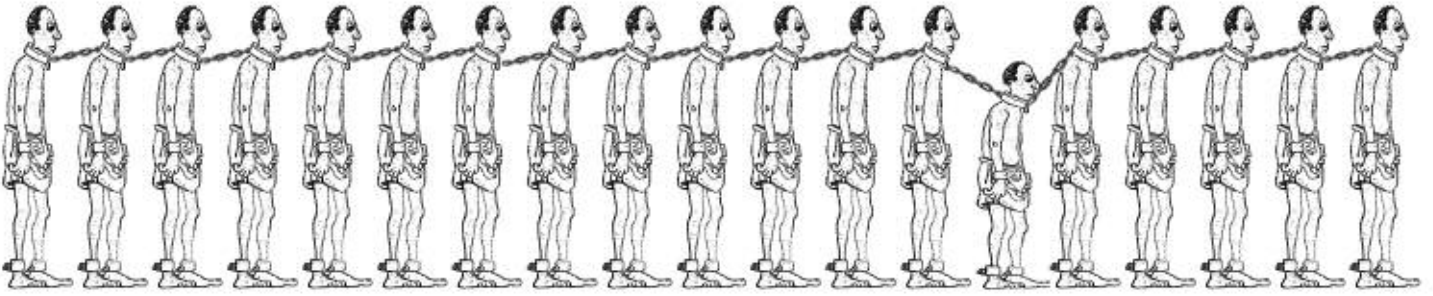
When the ship returned to England there was a big court case because the insurers refused to pay for the slaves that had been deliberately drowned. The owner of the ship claimed that the sick slaves had to be thrown overboard because there was not enough water to keep everyone alive.

He lost the case because it was proved that when the ship docked it still had plenty of water left. No one was ever charged with the murder of 133 people.

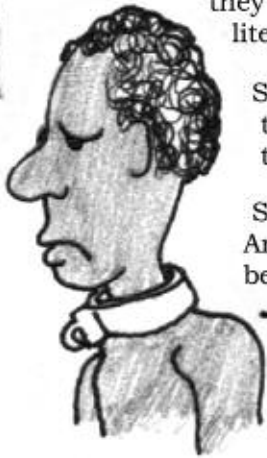
DID YOU KNOW? Although about 10% of the slaves died on the journey across the Atlantic, 5% of the crew died as well.



When the slaves arrived in the Americas they were taken to the slave markets to be sold to the highest bidder.



How much a slave was worth varied enormously. Apart from obvious things such as whether they were young and healthy or old and sick, other factors such as education, literacy, agricultural and craft skills, all affected their price.



Slaves were usually renamed by their owners, probably because it was easier than memorising unfamiliar African names. Sometimes the new name reflected the type of work that they did, their physical features or their character.

Slave owners had the right to annul marriages and split up husband and wife. Any babies that were born did not belong to the parents, but were considered to be the property of the slave owner.

Life on the plantation



© Royal Observatory, Greenwich. ID No. ZBA 2612

Study this photograph of slaves harvesting sugar cane. Do you think that this was a true snapshot of plantation life? What are your thoughts?



DID YOU KNOW? In 1803, 92% of all the cotton used in Britain came from plantations using slave labour.

This is a page from a plantation journal listing the names that the slaves had been given by their owner, their occupations and their value.



R. 55 7 123 2

A valuation of the Negroes & other Slaves the Property of the late Edw. Gardiner Esq. by Abraham Dunkley & Cha. Hutchinson Esq. 20 July 1784

On Popsue Estate

Drivers		Brought up	
✓ Milshue	L 140	Washer Women	L 2650
✓ Mars	35	✓ Affie	60
✓ Panto	35	✓ Canto	60
Carpenters		Cooks	
✓ Judy	35	✓ Frank	100
✓ Will	35	✓ Handful	50
✓ Cabrick	120	Fishermen	
✓ Cupid	120	✓ Quashie alias Southwark	38
✓ Mulatto Will	120	✓ Fashoni	40
✓ Lewis	120	✓ Jamie a Boy	50
Coopers		Stock Keepers	
✓ 10 Christmas	140	✓ Spettyhead	40
✓ Kircub	110	✓ Charles	50
✓ Anne	100	✓ Affie	40
Boilers		✓ Andrew	65
✓ Tim	80	Hairmen	
✓ Mel	50	✓ Roger	90
Masons		✓ Popsue	120
✓ 16 Munge	140	✓ Bravley	120
✓ Esac	140	✓ Quashie	120
✓ Mulatto John	90	✓ After Sheep	
Blacksmiths		✓ Ben	100
✓ Andrew	90	✓ Johnstone	80
✓ Quac	140	✓ Tom	60
Tanyers		✓ Nero	60
✓ 20 Epe	140	After Hogs	
✓ Sam	140	✓ Ado	30
Hot House Do		✓ 50 Radley	35
✓ Caesar	100	✓ Waghingale	50
✓ Sampson	50	✓ Hatch	40
Midwife		In the Garden	
✓ Old Betty	30	✓ Ruthie	30
House Negroes		✓ Kent	60
✓ 15 Thicket	90	In the Fowl House	
✓ Smart	90	✓ 55 Jane	40
✓ Sylvia	100	✓ Joan a Girl	70
✓ Teba	90	Field Men	
✓ Benny	90	✓ Neptune	100
		✓ Cor. Quac	40
		Carried over	L 454
	Carried up		L 2650

The document's headings describe the main task that each slave did. What does that tell us about the way in which a plantation was organised?

The document states the value of each slave. Why do you think some slaves were more valuable than others?

© Cambs. County Record Office. ID No. R55 / 7 / 123 / 3

Plantation owners would often change the names of their adult slaves to something more English sounding. Sometimes these new names still sound unusual to us! Can you pick out the slaves in this document who are named after English cities or counties?





To gather evidence against the slave trade Clarkson rode 35,000 miles & interviewed 20,000 sailors.



If you had to interview someone about slavery, what questions would you ask them?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Some of the main places that Clarkson visited to collect his information were:-

1. Bristol
2. Gloucester
3. Worcester
4. Chester
5. Liverpool
6. Manchester.

Can you help him to find them by marking their numbers on his map?

Clarkson collected many items to do with the slave trade as he travelled around the country

He had seen how the plan of The Brookes which showed how slaves were packed into a slave ship influenced public opinion much more than simply words on their own.

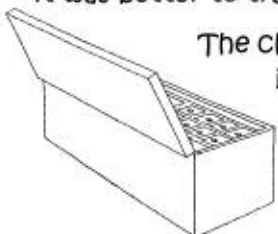
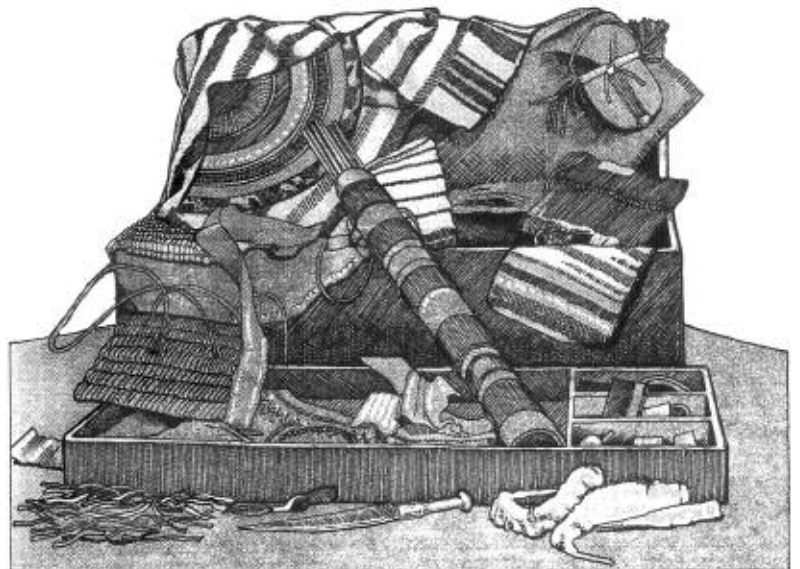
Clarkson realised that his collection of African crafts could be used as a visual aid, so he began using them as part of his lectures. He had a chest especially made to keep his collection safe. It had lots of trays and compartments to store all the different sized objects.

Clarkson's Chest

The chest contained many horrific items that demonstrated the cruelty of the slave trade, such as handcuffs; thumbscrews; leg-shackles; whips and branding irons.

It also contained seeds, textiles and other African goods to help support his claim that it was better to trade in goods than in people.

The chest is an interesting object in its own right, both as an early example of a visual aid and as a travelling museum.






A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Clarkson was often shown in pictures together with his chest.

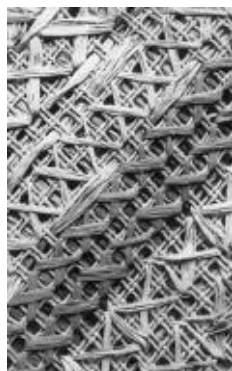
This is a print copied from a painting showing Clarkson in his study. Prints like this were much quicker and easier to produce than paintings and so they could be sold relatively cheaply as 'propaganda' images for the anti-slavery campaign.

Study the picture and then write down what you think Clarkson and his supporters in the Anti-Slavery Movement were trying to convey.

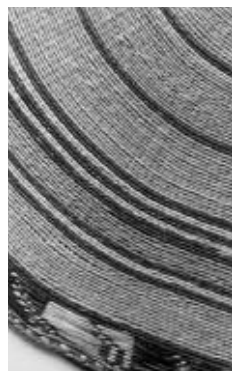
 **DID YOU KNOW?** *There is a competition to design your own version of Clarkson's chest about a subject such as 'Recycling' or 'Modern Day Slavery'. What would you put in your chest to convince others about the rights of your cause? Entry form at the back of this book.*



1



2



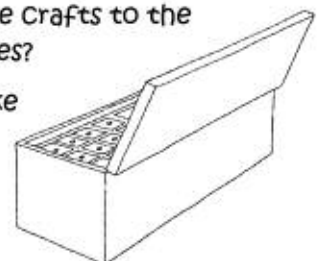
3



4

Jewellery, leatherwork, basket-making and embroidery are just some of the examples of African crafts collected by Clarkson. Can you match the names of the crafts to the right pictures?

Try and make something similar yourself.



THE ANTI-SLAVERY CAMPAIGN

Thomas Clarkson helped to develop the prototype for the modern campaigns to influence public opinion.

As part of his campaign to create a mass anti-slavery movement he travelled the country setting up 1,200 branches for the abolition of the slave trade.

One of the things that he encouraged them to do was to organise petitions against the slave trade. In just one year, 1792, over five hundred of these petitions containing about 390,000 signatures were presented to Parliament.

Clarkson regularly corresponded with 400 people and encouraged them to write letters opposing the slave trade to both local and national newspapers. Due to these and other efforts, 300,000 people were persuaded to boycott slave-produced sugar.



An important part of the campaigners' strategy was the lobbying of MPs to try and win their support. Relationships were cultivated with those who were sympathetic to the views of the abolitionists.

One of the MPs who listened sympathetically to the abolitionists was William Wilberforce and it was Clarkson who eventually persuaded him to become the abolitionist movement's spokesman in Parliament.

Wilberforce was only twenty-eight years old, but he was already regarded as an excellent speech-maker. His brilliant speeches in the House of Commons meant that it was his name that came to be most associated with the abolition of slavery, but it was Clarkson who provided him with a continuous supply of evidence for those speeches.



"Am I not a man and a brother?"

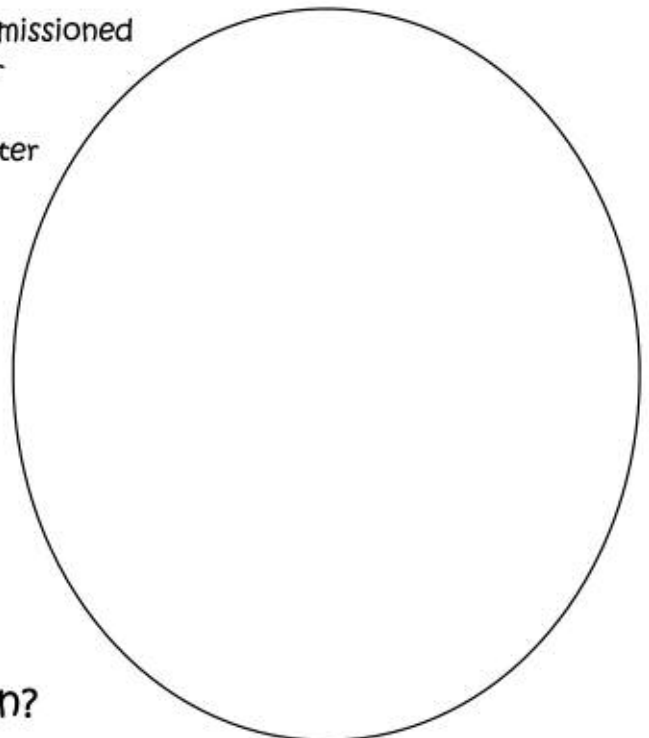
These words, surrounding a kneeling slave in chains, acquired universal recognition as the emblem of the abolitionist campaign.

The design was commissioned by the master potter Josiah Wedgwood, a committed supporter of the abolitionist cause.

It was initially manufactured by his company as a ceramic medallion, but the image and the slogan were much copied and reproduced on a wide variety of other goods.

By wearing or displaying these, sympathisers could clearly show other people that they supported the anti-slavery movement.

Can you design an emblem for a present day anti-slavery campaign?



Thomas Clarkson was only one of many important figures involved in campaigning for the abolition of the slave trade.

They included prominent politicians such as William Wilberforce, the MP for Hull; major manufacturers and industrialists such as Josiah Wedgwood; and leading figures from the arts including Hannah More the playwright and the poets Wordsworth, Cowper and Coleridge. Many also had strong religious beliefs and were Quakers or evangelical Christians.

Gustavus Vassa, also known as Olaudah Equiano, had actually been a slave. He learnt to read and write, bought his freedom, became a sailor and eventually settled in London where he wrote his autobiography.

The book became a huge success and he toured around England promoting both it and the abolitionist cause.

He played a key role in raising public awareness about the slavery issue, but unfortunately did not live to see it abolished.



ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE ME THE MONEY TO PUBLISH MY BOOK WAS JOHN CLARKSON, THOMAS CLARKSON'S BROTHER.



Equiano worked closely with Clarkson campaigning alongside him. During Clarkson's travels gathering names for petitions against slavery, he promoted Equiano's autobiography in order to help the British public understand the awful conditions to which slaves were subjected.

In 1788 Equiano met Queen Charlotte and on behalf of his 'African brethren' asked: "[T]hat they may be raised from the condition of brutes, to which they are at present degraded, to the rights and situation of freemen, and admitted to partake of the blessing of your Majesty's happy government; so shall your Majesty enjoy the heart-felt pleasure of procuring happiness to millions, and be rewarded in the grateful prayers of themselves, and of their posterity."

First-Hand Experience

Some of the campaigners had first-hand experience of slavery. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church, had met slaves on plantations when he was preaching in Georgia and Zachary Macaulay, one of the leading members in the parliamentary campaign, had been an assistant manager on a sugar plantation in Jamaica.

DID YOU KNOW?

Olaudah Equiano eventually married Susanah Cullen, who was originally from Ely. They settled in Soham, 32 miles from Wisbech.

THE PASSING OF THE ACT

The passing of the Slave Trade Act in 1807 was not achieved without a long struggle.

There were many powerful and rich people whose fortunes depended one way or another on the continuation of the slave trade. These people had friends in the government and quite a few were even members of parliament themselves! This ensured that parliamentary legislation was blocked or defeated several times. From 12th May 1789, the date of Wilberforce's first parliamentary speech against the slave trade, it was almost eight years before parliament finally passed an Act abolishing it.



THIS IS A LETTER THAT I WROTE TO MY FRIEND JONATHAN PECKOVER IN WISBECH ABOUT HOW THE ACT WAS PASSED.

Dear Friend,
Jonathan Peckover. Feb. 24 1807

I write to inform you that our efforts were blessed by providence last night in the promotion of this great cause of the abolition of the Slave Trade. I want words to express the joy I feel on the occasion. In favour of the motion there were 283-against it 16. I shall attend a committee to-day to deliberate upon some plan for securing our victory, when I shall leave London with a heart full of gratitude to the parent of all mercies, that he has been pleased thus to render a portion of my life usefull to my oppressed Fellow Creatures.

Yours truly
T-Clarkson

If you were writing a letter to a friend today about the passing of the Act, what would you say?

SOME THINGS THAT CLARKSON DIDN'T MENTION IN HIS LETTER

(YOU MIGHT WANT TO USE SOME OF THESE IN YOUR LETTER)

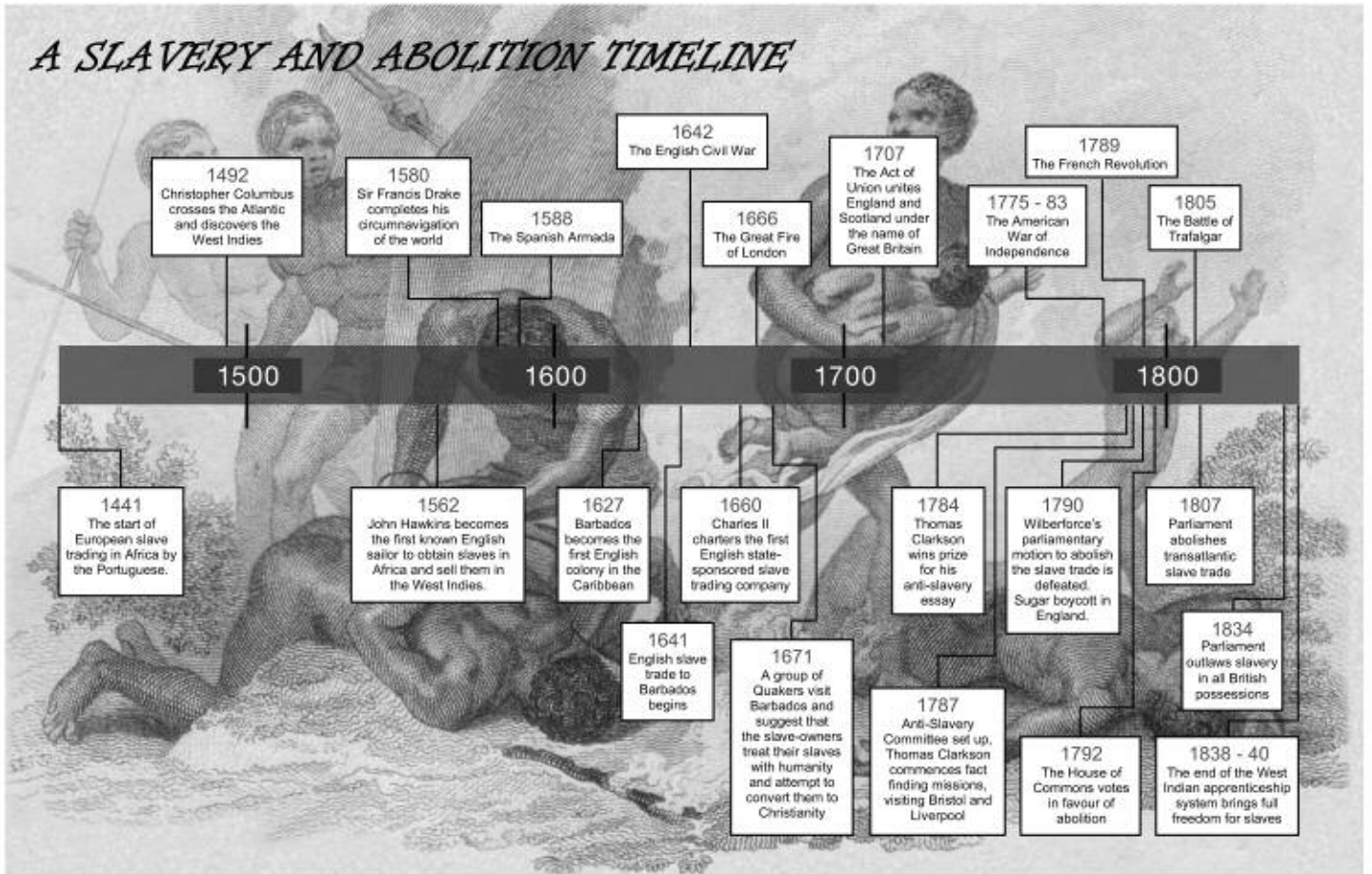
Luck played a large part. In 1800, the Act of Union allowed one hundred Irish MPs to enter the Commons, most of whom supported the Abolitionist cause.

Lord Grenville was extremely sympathetic to the views of the anti-slavery campaigners. When he became Prime Minister after the death of William Pitt in 1805, the chances for abolition became much more favourable.

James Stephen, a new member of the Abolition Committee, played a major part in getting the act passed. He was a leading maritime lawyer and he helped the abolitionists to write a more acceptable form of legislation and to steer it through parliament.

The Act was finally passed on 23rd February 1807 by 283 votes to 16, but only after a ten hour debate which lasted until four o'clock in the morning.

A SLAVERY AND ABOLITION TIMELINE



SLAVERY CROSSWORD

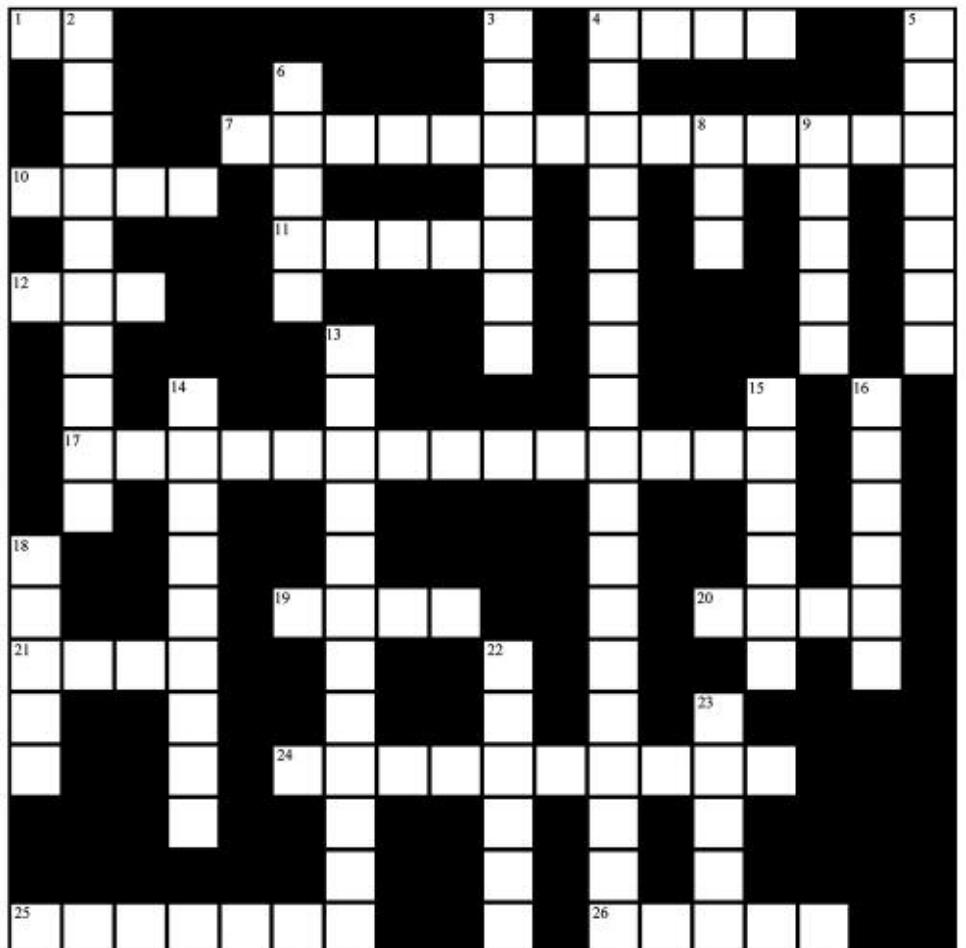
The answers to all of the clues are contained in this book, - so you might have to finish reading it before you can completely fill in the crossword!

ACROSS

- 1 Abbreviation for a Member of Parliament (2)
- 4 Instrument of torture in Clarkson's chest (4)
- 7 Anti-Slavery campaigner born in Wisbech (6,8)
- 10 The name of Clarkson's sister (4)
- 11 Someone who is not free (5)
- 12 Food fed to slaves from the Bight of Biafra (3)
- 17 Ex-slave who wrote a book about his life (7,7)
- 19 Slaves were thrown off this ship to drown (4)
- 20 The name of Thomas's brother (4)
- 21 Russian ruler (4)
- 24 A drawing of this ship was used by the anti-slavery campaigners (3,7)
- 25 The name of a city visited by Clarkson (7)
- 26 Clarkson won a prize for writing one (5)

DOWN

- 2 A name for a farm worked by slaves (10)
- 3 Clarkson was born in this town (7)
- 4 Member of Parliament who campaigned for the end of the slave trade (7,11)
- 5 The name of a type of African money (7)
- 6 Clarkson kept his collection in one (5)
- 8 Alcoholic drink shipped back by the slave traders from the West Indies (3)
- 9 Sweet substance shipped back by the slave traders from the West Indies (5)
- 13 Where Thomas lived during the last part of his life (8,4)
- 14 Clarkson wanted to replace the slave trade with this (4, 5)
- 15 Material used for clothes and shipped back by the slave traders from the West Indies (6)
- 16 Used to stop slaves from escaping (6)
- 18 Thomas wrote his essay in this language (5)
- 22 The continent where the slaves came from (6)
- 23 Clarkson had these in his chest to 'plant' the idea that Africa could be traded with (5)



Unfortunately, the 1807 Slave Trade Act, did not put an end to slavery

The act only made it illegal for ships to transport the slaves - and slavery itself continued.

Clarkson and others on the committee had to continue working to make sure that the new act was enforced as well as starting a new campaign to abolish slavery entirely.

As an accomplished writer, Thomas's main role was writing pamphlets against slavery and corresponding with other abolitionists around the world. He also found the time to write a book, 'History of the Rise, Progress and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave Trade', which was published in 1808.

A few years earlier, Thomas had spent months in revolutionary France encouraging the abolitionists there. Now, his efforts were concentrated once again on furthering the anti-slavery campaign internationally. In pursuit of a European ban on slavery he travelled twice again to France, in 1814 and 1818, and met twice with the Tsar of Russia, Alexander I. At the 1815 Congress of Vienna he presented his evidence about the evils of slavery to each of the rulers who attended.



ABOVE ARE TWO MEDALS STRUCK FOR THE ANTI-SLAVERY CAUSE.

MAKE A LIST OF THE MAIN DIFFERENCES AND SAY WHY YOU THINK THESE ARE.



DID YOU KNOW?

Jane Austen was so impressed by Clarkson's writing style that after reading one of his books she said she was "in love with its author".



The Final years

For the last thirty years of his life Thomas Clarkson lived at Playford Hall in Suffolk. This print of him outside his home towards the end of his life shows him as a stooped old man with a walking stick.

In 1833 the Act abolishing slavery in the British Empire was finally passed. Clarkson's main efforts were now directed across the Atlantic to where the campaign against slavery was only just beginning.

1833 was also the year that the inhabitants of Wisbech commissioned a portrait of Clarkson to be painted and it still hangs in the Wisbech Council Chamber.

In 1839 Clarkson was elected first president of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society and one of his first acts was to organise an international anti-slavery convention in London. One year later, at the age of 80, he addressed the convention as its principal speaker and received a standing ovation from the 5,000 delegates and observers from nine countries.

This was to be his last public appearance. He died at Playford in Suffolk on the 26th September 1846, aged 87. He is buried there in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church.

His Memorials

Wisbech commemorated him by naming a school in his honour and by erecting the Clarkson Memorial, shown here and still a prominent local landmark.

In 1996 a tablet dedicated to him was unveiled in Westminster Abbey. Its inscription simply says:-

***"A FRIEND TO
SLAVES"***

If you had to write an inscription for a new Thomas Clarkson memorial, what would it be?



Slavery Today

*Slavery still exists in many parts of the world,
- although sometimes it is well hidden.*

Some ways of discovering if people are classed as slaves is if they:-

- have to work without being paid for it
- Cannot choose whether they work or not
- Cannot choose for how long they must work
- are not free to leave and find another job



Child domestic in the Philippines



March against Child Labour



Child domestics in Benin

Images courtesy of Anti-Slavery International

During the Trans-Atlantic slave trade many people chose not to think about the awful conditions and cruelty that slaves were subjected to. One speaker in the Houses of Parliament even went so far as to say:-

*"the wisest thing to do about the slave trade was to shut our eyes,
stop our ears and run away from the horrid sounds,
without making further enquiry".*

Today, many people are still doing exactly the same. It is through ignorance and prejudice that slavery still exists in the world today. To find out more about modern-day slavery the following websites will be able to advise you.

www.wisbechandfenlandmuseum.org.uk

<http://slavetrade.parliament.uk/slavetrade/history>

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

www.antislavery.org

www.thomasclarkson.org

www.discoveringbristol.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/abolition

WHEN YOU HAVE FOUND OUT MORE ABOUT SLAVERY IN THE MODERN WORLD,
USE THE SPACE BELOW TO RECORD YOUR RESULTS
(YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND THAT YOU NEED A LOT MORE PAPER).

<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



MY CHEST

NAME

AGE

SCHOOL

.....

.....

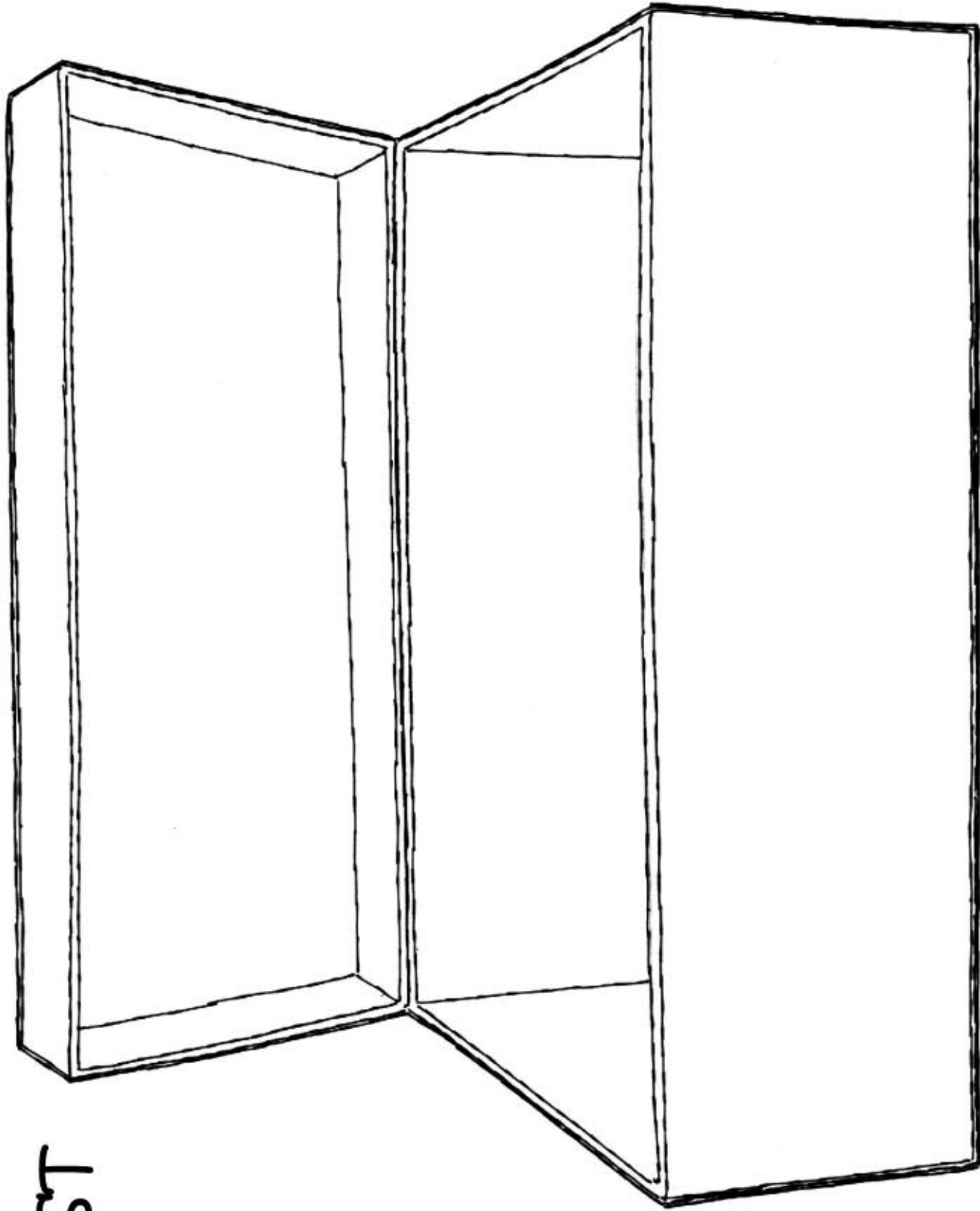
.....

Design your own version of Clarkson's chest about a subject such as 'Recycling' or 'Modern Day Slavery'.

What would you put in it to help convince others about the rights or wrongs of your cause?

An MP3 player will be awarded to the best entry submitted to the Wisbech and Fenland Museum by Saturday, 1st December 2007.

The winning entry and a selection of the runners-up will be exhibited during the closing weeks of the Thomas Clarkson exhibition.

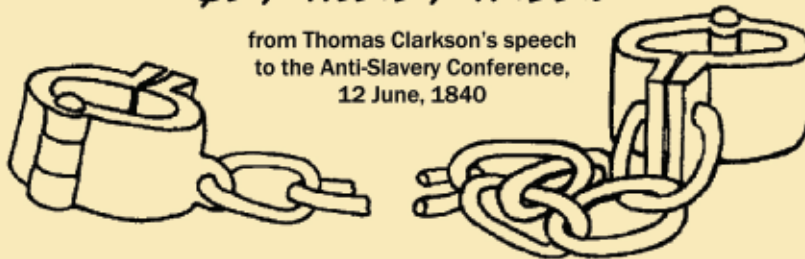


Wisbech & Fenland Museum
Museum Square, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 1ES
Opening Times: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 - 16:00
Telephone: 01945 583817
info@wisbechmuseum.org.uk
www.wisbechmuseum.org.uk



*'Take courage,
be not dismayed,
go on,
persevere to the last,
ahead lies the elimination
of slavery from
the whole world'*

from Thomas Clarkson's speech
to the Anti-Slavery Conference,
12 June, 1840



This activity booklet was devised by
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