

**Economic**

**The actions of slaves**

**The actions of whites**

Anti-slavery petitions were signed in British towns, e.g. in 1792 alone 519 petitions were handed to Parliament demanding the abolition of the slave trade.

Why was the slave trade aboli-shed in 1807?

Slaves in Britain went to court to get their freedom. By the early 1800s most judges set these slaves free. The law of the land was turning against the idea of slavery.

Sugar plantations were closing as cheap sugar could be bought from Brazil and Cuba. People argued that slaves would work harder if they were freed and paid.

Between 1730 and 1797 there were slave rebellions against the English, e.g. Nanny Maroon’s War in the 1730s. The rebellions slowly changed attitudes.

On March 25th 1807 the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act received its royal assent after the Houses of Parliament voted in favour of ending the practice.

Josiah Wedgwood joined the anti-slavery side and designed a logo for it. The design appeared on bookplates, coat buttons, wax seals, jewellery etc.

Granville Sharp used the law courts to try and give slaves their freedom. He fought many court cases, e.g. the *Zong* ship. Slavery was becoming legally unacceptable.

An ex-slave called Olaudah Equiano wrote a book of the story of his life as a slave. Many British people read the book and as a consequence opposed slavery.

In 1795 Julian Fedon led the slaves of Greneda in a violent rebellion against the English. Although the rebellion failed, it convinced people that slavery was wrong.

The Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was set up in 1787. Its aim was to let Africans live free from the risk of capture, and outlaw their sale and slavery.

**Religious**

**Key individuals**

**Beliefs and ideas**



**Media**

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Hannah More was a member of the Abolition Society. She wrote poems and books about the horrors of the slave trade, and convinced many of the need to ban it.

In 1791 Toussaint L’Ouverture lead a slave revolt on the French island of St Dominique. The English tried to capture the island, but they were also defeated in 1798.

Christian groups, such as the Quakers, thought that slavery was a sin against God and religion. They spread the anti-slavery message amongst the people of Britain.

William Wilberforce campaigned against the slave trade. The first time he introduced the idea he lost the debate by 163 votes to 88 but he never gave up.

Thomas Clarkson collected evidence against slavery. He spread his message all over the country by publishing posters, pamphlets and making public speeches.

**Political and legal**

