

# Enslaved People

History

Lesson 4 of an enquiry of 4 lessons

Enquiry: Who lived in British America?

Miss Cusworth



# British America

**13 colonies** fought a war against Britain for their independence.

Their independence was confirmed in the 1783 Treaty of Paris.

But Britain still controlled its colonies in Canada and the Caribbean.



# Who lived in Barbados? Create this table

<b>Enslaved people in Barbados</b>	
<b>Planters in Barbados</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- e.g Codringtons and Ashbys</li><li>- Grew sugar to sell back in Britain</li><li>- Owned and sometimes lived on plantations</li><li>- Often became very rich</li><li>- Owned large numbers of slaves</li><li>- Invested money in Britain</li><li>- Gained compensation as part of abolition</li></ul>



# Enslaved people

Originally from West Africa:

- Bight of Biafra
- Gold Coast
- Bight of Benin

Taken across the Atlantic Ocean on a journey known as the 'Middle Passage'.

15% died on journey.

By the 1800s, very few enslaved people in Barbados had been born in Africa.



# **Enslaved people:** John Stephen Ashby

Was a the son of Robert Cooper Ashby and an unknown enslaved woman on Burkes plantation.

Born into slavery in 1803.

Became a carpenter.



# Mixed race people in the Caribbean

Some were free, such as Dido Belle who was taken to Britain by her father who was a white naval officer.

Dido was raised as a member of the English aristocracy.

Some were recognised by their fathers, who were often planters. But some were not and continued to be enslaved.



# Enslaved people: in the fields

Working in the fields was incredibly hard work. The strongest men and women were allocated this work.

Many enslaved people were worked to death because they weren't given enough food and were treated awfully.

Field work was dreaded by all enslaved people.



# **Enslaved people:** in the boiling house

Once the sugar cane was cut, the juice needed to be squeezed out and then boiled to make sugar.

Working in the boiling house was hard and very dangerous work. Accidents often happened and it was incredibly hot.

The head boiler was highly skilled role.





# Enslaved people: at the market

Huckers (market traders) were mostly women.

Selling food grown in the small patches of land enslaved people were given at market was an opportunity to make a bit of money.

The market was also an opportunity for socialising and its existence was fiercely protected by enslaved people.

A number of rebellions were linked to island leaders banning markets.



# Enslaved people: in rebellion

Enslaved people continually rebelled, from the moment they were captured to the moment they died.

Resistance took many forms: trying to turn the ship around on the Middle Passage; running away; pretending to be ill; doing work badly and even committing suicide.

The violence white people used against enslaved people not only shows us the levels of cruelty that existed, but also that enslaved people were not willing slaves, they were kept so with violence.

Bussa's Rebellion of 1816 was one of Barbados's biggest uprisings. 214 people were executed after the rebellion failed.



# Enslaved people: John Stephen Ashby

Abolition officially occurred in 1834, but change didn't happen straight away. We see this when in 1835 John Stephen was baptised (perhaps in advance of his marriage). He is listed in the baptism records as 'Adult, owned by Robert Cooper Ashby'.

John Stephen married another mixed-race enslaved woman, Mary Fitzpatrick. She was a seamstress and her father was also a white planter.

They had two children, who were born free.



# Who lived in Barbados?

<b>Enslaved people in Barbados</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- e.g John Stephen Ashby</li><li>- African or descended from Africans</li><li>- Owned by planters and worked on plantations</li><li>- Different types of work (field, boiling house, trades)</li><li>- Continually experienced violence but still resisted</li><li>- Mixed-race enslaved people had access to opportunities</li></ul>
<b>Planters in Barbados</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- e.g Codringtons and Ashbys</li><li>- Grew sugar to sell back in Britain</li><li>- Owned and sometimes lived on plantations</li><li>- Often became very rich</li><li>- Owned large numbers of slaves</li><li>- Invested money in Britain</li><li>- Gained compensation as part of abolition</li></ul>



# Questions

1. Which part of British America gained its independence in 1783?
2. Where did enslaved Barbadians who weren't born on the island mostly come from?
3. Why did enslaved people travel to America?
4. Who was John Stephen Ashby's father?
5. What opportunities were mixed-race enslaved people more likely to have access to?



# Who lived in British America?

Summary task: now it's time for you to pull together all of your knowledge from the past 4 lessons.

Draw a (rough) Map of the Americas, then label the following things and answer the questions:

- Name all of the colonies we have studied, you may include Canada
- Who lived there?
- What their experience was?
- How similar or different it was to others in British America?

