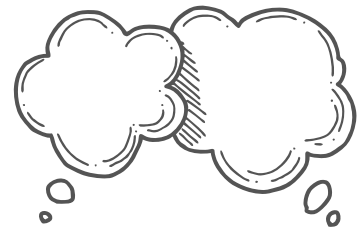


ON REFLECTION



Memorialising... the Transatlantic Slave Trade

The transatlantic slave trade was a very dark period in history. Millions of Africans were kidnapped from their homes and transported in terrible conditions across the Atlantic Ocean to be forced to work on slave plantations, often subjected to brutal treatment.

Recent research has now shown that Highland people were involved at every stage of the slave trade.

1 EXPLORE

Explore this snuff box which was given to James Fowler in 1802. It is engraved with a message from the grateful East Ross Volunteers.

James Fowler made his huge income from his travels to Jamaica where he was able to eventually purchase five sugar plantations. They were named Grange, Armagh, Merrywood, Friendship, and Lottery. All these plantations were worked by slaves.

Back in the Highlands, his wealth led him to be very well respected. He had leading roles in Highland society.

In 1835, Fowler received compensation for the emancipation of over 500 enslaved people. This shows how he continued to profit from his involvement in this very dark episode in history, like many others of his generation.

Why do we find it so shocking that Fowler received this compensation?



2

TAKE IT FURTHER

You could also explore the silver statuette of Colonel Francis Humberston Mackenzie, 1st Baron Seaforth on the site.

How does this object further our understanding of how men like Fowler and Colonel Mackenzie were regarded during their lives?

4

READ

What would life have been like for slaves owned by James Fowler? Find out more about life on a sugar plantation by reading the story of James Fowler on the site.

3

TALK ABOUT IT

It is estimated that 15 million men, women and children were the victims of the tragic transatlantic slave trade over a 400-year period. Talking about the slave trade can be very difficult. With a friend or family member who you feel comfortable with, discuss the following questions:

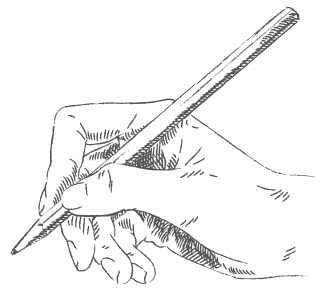
- Why do you think it is important to remember the slave trade?
- Can you think of any events, movies, TV programmes, or memorials that do this?
- Links to the slave trade can sometimes be difficult to uncover – these might be found in names on street signs, statues of past individuals, or in objects in museums, for example. Why do you think we need to actively uncover stories of transatlantic slavery in the modern world?



5

CREATE A COMMEMORATION

Use this page to plan your ideas.



Who do you want to commemorate?

Why do you want to remember what happened to them?

What could your design look like? What shapes or pictures could you include?

What message could you write?

