Activity 5: The Triangular Trade Route

Introductory Discussion

• Give your pupils the list of traded commodities. Is there anything that surprises you about what people considered to be valuable trade goods? Why?

• Enslaved people were often described as cargo. Why? How do you feel about that?

Many goods and enslaved Africans were traded across the Atlantic. See if you can place the different labels correctly on the map to show where they came from.

Cut up the word labels to the right: there is a brief description of each one on this sheet to help you.

Answers are on page 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enslaved Worker</th>
<th>Mahogany</th>
<th>Sugar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guns</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Tobacco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>Beads</td>
<td>Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>Rum</td>
<td>Shackles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Descriptions

Enslaved Worker: A person who has no rights, the property of another person.
Sugar: Sugar cane is grown in hot countries.
Guns: Weapons such as guns were sold and traded.
Pottery: Pottery was produced and sold all over the world.
Tobacco: Dried tobacco leaves are used for smoking, chewing or ground into powder for snuff which is inhaled through the nose.
Cotton: Raw cotton is often grown in plantations.
Beads: Glass beads were popular trading goods.
Rice: Rice is a staple food commonly grown in areas with low labour costs and high rainfall.
Coffee: Raw coffee beans are grown in hot countries.
Rum: Rum was a popular drink of sailors. Sugar is an ingredient of rum.
Shackles: Metal chains and restraints used to control enslaved Africans.
Mahogany: A rich, dark hard wood mainly used for furniture.
Activity 5:
The Triangular Trade Route

Map showing the triangular trade route.
Activity 5: The Triangular Trade Route Answers

- **Enslaved Worker** • Africa to Caribbean Islands and Americas
- **Beads** • Britain to Africa
- **Guns** • Britain to Africa
- **Rum** • Caribbean Islands to Britain and Britain to Africa
- **Cotton** • Americas to Britain
- **Sugar** • Caribbean Islands to Britain
- **Coffee** • Americas to Britain
- **Tobacco** • Americas to Britain
- **Mahogany** • Americas to Britain
- **Rice** • Americas and Caribbean Islands to Britain
- **Pottery** • Britain to Africa
- **Shackles** • Britain to Africa, Caribbean Islands and Americas

Note

This is a simplified version of trading routes; some goods were traded between all three countries and beyond. It is not a definitive list of trade goods, others include indigo, cloth and tea.