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Africans mark the end of the slave trade

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27th March, 2007

THE ARTICLE

Africans mark the end of the slave trade

Two hundred years ago, on March 25th, 1807, Britain banned the trade in slaves from Africa. Africans marked this anniversary on Sunday with a special ceremony in Ghana, from where British slave ships transported countless numbers of innocent black Africans to the USA. Descendants of these slaves gathered at one of the most infamous trading posts, Fort Elmina, known as "the door of no return". They remembered the tens of millions who crossed the Atlantic, many perishing, in barbaric conditions to provide free labour in the New World. Ghana's President John Kufor gave a speech recalling their suffering: "Through this dark era of human history, the...human spirit...could not be broken," he said. He added: "Man should never descend to such low depths of inhumanity to man as the slave trade ever again."

Many other dignitaries read speeches at the somber ceremony. South Africa's jazz legend Hugh Masakela blamed the slave trade for Africa's current economic and social woes. "We have seen the manipulation, the impoverishment of Africa...That is [proof of] the effects of slavery... There is no price, no price for what has been done," he said. British Prime Minister Tony Blair sent a recorded message expressing "deep sorrow and regret" for Britain's role in the slave trade. However, he did not offer a formal apology for his nation's dark role two centuries ago. Ghanaian poet Kofi Anyi Doho lamented that the world has not learnt the lessons of slavery, saying: "The traffic in human beings is clearly not over. There are no boats to anchor next to a slave fort but people are being forced into...a form of enslavement all over the world."

WARM-UPS

1. SLAVERY: Walk around the classroom and find out from other students what they know about slavery. When you have finished, sit with your partner(s) and share and talk about your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

slave trade / slaves / Africa / Atlantic Ocean / human history / inhumanity / dignitaries / jazz / social woes / sorrow / regret / apologies / lessons / anchors

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

3. SLAVE TO...: With your partner(s), talk about whether you are a slave to these things:

- mobile phones
- love
- your computer
- studying
- work
- the kitchen sink
- English
- technology

4. SLAVERY OPINIONS: Talk about each of these opinions. Do you think they are true for your country / other countries?

- There is no slavery today.
- I feel I am often treated as a slave.
- Nations involved in slavery should pay damages to descendants of slaves.
- There should be a national holiday to mark the end of slavery.
- The world is doing too little to end human trafficking.
- Man has not descended to such levels of inhumanity as the slave trade.
- There is a modern day form of slavery.
- Globalization is reducing the chances of slavery happening.

5. A DIFFERENT WORLD: With your partner(s), discuss how different the world would be today if the slave trade from Africa to the Americas had not happened. Try to think of five differences. Change partners and share your differences.

6. SLAVERY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with slavery. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The African slave trade ended two hundred years ago. | T / F |
| b. Records show exactly how many slaves were taken from Africa. | T / F |
| c. Conditions in the slave ships were described as barbaric. | T / F |
| d. Ghana's President said slavery broke the spirit of Africans. | T / F |
| e. A jazz musician blames slavery for Africa's current problems. | T / F |
| f. Tony Blair attended the ceremony in Ghana and expressed regret. | T / F |
| g. A poet is happy that man has learnt the lessons of slavery. | T / F |
| h. Boats are still anchoring next to slave forts all over the world. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| a. marked | notorious |
| b. descendants | bondage |
| c. infamous | inhumane |
| d. perishing | trade |
| e. barbaric | recognized |
| f. dignitaries | vile |
| g. woes | dying |
| h. dark | VIPs |
| i. traffic | ancestors |
| j. enslavement | problems |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. Africans marked | of Africa |
| b. slave ships transported countless | to such low depths of inhumanity |
| c. many perishing | human beings is clearly not over |
| d. the...human spirit... | this anniversary on Sunday |
| e. Man should never descend | numbers of innocent black Africans |
| f. Many other dignitaries | into...a form of enslavement |
| g. Africa's current economic | could not be broken |
| h. the impoverishment | read speeches |
| i. The traffic in | in barbaric conditions |
| j. people are being forced | and social woes |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Africans mark the end of the slave trade

Two hundred years ago, on March 25th, 1807, Britain _____ the trade in slaves from Africa. Africans _____ this anniversary on Sunday with a special ceremony in Ghana, from where British slave ships transported _____ numbers of innocent black Africans to the USA. Descendants of these slaves gathered at one of the most _____ trading posts, Fort Elmina, known as "the door of no return". They remembered the tens of millions who crossed the Atlantic, many _____, in barbaric conditions to provide free labour in the New World. Ghana's President John Kufor gave a speech _____ their suffering: "Through this dark era of human history, the...human spirit...could not be broken," he said. He added: "Man should never _____ to such low _____ of inhumanity to man as the slave trade ever again."

recalling
countless
depths
infamous
banned
descend
marked
perishing

Many other _____ read speeches at the somber ceremony. South Africa's jazz legend Hugh Masakela blamed the slave trade for Africa's current economic and social _____. "We have seen the manipulation, the impoverishment of Africa...That is [_____ of] the effects of slavery... There is no _____, no price for what has been done," he said. British Prime Minister Tony Blair sent a recorded message expressing "_____ sorrow and regret" for Britain's role in the slave trade. However, he did not offer a formal apology for his nation's _____ role two centuries ago. Ghanaian poet Kofi Anyi Doho lamented that the world has not learnt the lessons of slavery, saying: "The traffic in human beings is _____ not over. There are no boats to anchor next to a slave fort but people are being forced into...a _____ of enslavement all over the world."

clearly
woes
deep
dark
dignitaries
form
proof
price

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Africans mark the end of the slave trade

Two hundred years ago, on March 25th, 1807, Britain _____ slaves from Africa. Africans _____ on Sunday with a special ceremony in Ghana, from where British slave ships transported countless numbers of innocent black Africans to the USA. _____ slaves gathered at one of the most infamous trading posts, Fort Elmina, known as "the door of no return". They remembered the tens of millions who crossed the Atlantic, _____ conditions to provide free labour in the New World. Ghana's President John Kufor gave a speech recalling their suffering: "Through _____ human history, the...human spirit...could not be broken," he said. He added: "Man should _____ depths of inhumanity to man as the slave trade ever again."

Many other dignitaries read speeches _____ ceremony. South Africa's jazz legend Hugh Masakela blamed the slave trade for Africa's current _____. "We have seen the manipulation, the _____ Africa...That is [proof of] the effects of slavery... There is no price, no price for what has been done," he said. British Prime Minister Tony Blair sent a recorded message expressing "_____ " for Britain's role in the slave trade. However, he did not offer a formal apology for _____ two centuries ago. Ghanaian poet Kofi Anyi Doho lamented that the world has not learnt the lessons of slavery, saying: "The traffic in human beings is clearly not over. There are no _____ next to a slave fort but people are being forced into...a form of enslavement all over the world."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'slave' and 'trade'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "SLAVERY" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about slavery past, present and future.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• banned• countless• door• barbaric• era• depths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• somber• woes• price• dark• lamented• anchor
---	--

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) Do you think the slave trade has ended?
- c) How do you think the slave trade has changed the world?
- d) What other countries engaged in slavery, besides European countries?
- e) Should the descendants of slaves receive compensation from countries that engaged in slavery?
- f) What would be the best way to mark the end of slavery?
- g) Why do you think Tony Blair did not issue a formal apology for Britain's role as a slave trader?
- h) Do you think man will descend to similar depths of inhumanity again?
- i) What do you know about the slave trade of Africans to America?
- j) Do you ever think you are treated as a slave?



STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think Hugh Masakela is right about Africa's current woes?
- c) Are you surprised that Tony Blair did not attend the ceremony in person?
- d) Do you think people will ever learn lessons from history?
- e) What forms of slavery are there in the world today?
- f) What question would you like to have asked a slave trader?
- g) Do you think there are sections of your society who are slaves?
- h) What question would you like to have asked a slave on a slave ship?
- i) Should there be a world holiday to remember the victims of slavery?
- j) Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a) What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b) Was there a question you didn't like?
- c) Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d) What did you like talking about?
- e) Which was the most difficult question?

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

Africans mark the end of the slave trade

Two hundred years ago, on March 25th, 1807, Britain banned the trade in slaves from Africa. Africans (1) _____ this anniversary on Sunday with a special ceremony in Ghana, (2) _____ where British slave ships transported countless numbers of innocent black Africans to the USA. Descendants of these slaves gathered at one of the most (3) _____ trading posts, Fort Elmina, known as "the door of no return". They remembered the tens of millions who crossed the Atlantic, many perishing, in (4) _____ conditions to provide free labour in the New World. Ghana's President John Kufor gave a speech (5) _____ their suffering: "Through this dark era of human history, the...human spirit...could not be broken," he said. He added: "Man should never descend to such low (6) _____ of inhumanity to man as the slave trade ever again."

Many other dignitaries read speeches at the (7) _____ ceremony. South Africa's jazz legend Hugh Masakela blamed the slave trade for Africa's current economic and social (8) _____. "We have seen the manipulation, the impoverishment of Africa...That is [proof of] the effects of slavery... There is no price, no price for what has been done," he said. British Prime Minister Tony Blair sent a recorded message expressing "(9) _____ sorrow and regret" for Britain's role in the slave trade. However, he did not offer a formal apology for his nation's (10) _____ role two centuries ago. Ghanaian poet Kofi Anyi Doho (11) _____ that the world has not learnt the lessons of slavery, saying: "The traffic in human beings is clearly not over. There are no boats to anchor next to a slave fort but people are being forced (12) _____...a form of enslavement all over the world."

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) marked | (b) made | (c) marking | (d) masked |
| 2. | (a) and | (b) fro | (c) from | (d) over |
| 3. | (a) infinitive | (b) infinity | (c) infamy | (d) infamous |
| 4. | (a) barbarian | (b) barbaric | (c) barbecue | (d) barbed |
| 5. | (a) recalling | (b) calling | (c) receiving | (d) rectifying |
| 6. | (a) deepens | (b) deeply | (c) deeps | (d) depths |
| 7. | (a) sober up | (b) somber | (c) sombrero | (d) sobriety |
| 8. | (a) woes | (b) foes | (c) toes | (d) does |
| 9. | (a) deeply | (b) deepness | (c) deep | (d) depth |
| 10. | (a) darken | (b) dark | (c) darkness | (d) darkly |
| 11. | (a) lame brained | (b) lamely | (c) lamented | (d) lambed |
| 12. | (a) to | (b) hitherto | (c) unto | (d) into |

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about the history of slavery. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SLAVERY POSTER: Make a poster about the different types of slavery and the different countries involved in the slave trade. Include modern day slavery. Show your poster to your class in the next lesson. Vote on the best one(s).

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the effects of slavery on the world. Discuss what the world would be like if there was no slavery. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

5. DIARY: Write the diary entry of a slave on a slave ship headed for America two hundred years ago. Write down your three biggest fears. Include three questions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. F c. T d. F e. T f. F g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| a. marked | recognized |
| b. descendants | ancestors |
| c. infamous | notorious |
| d. perishing | dying |
| e. barbaric | inhumane |
| f. dignitaries | VIPs |
| g. woes | problems |
| h. dark | vile |
| i. traffic | trade |
| j. enslavement | bondage |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. Africans marked | this anniversary on Sunday |
| b. slave ships transported countless | numbers of innocent black Africans |
| c. many perishing | in barbaric conditions |
| d. the...human spirit... | could not be broken |
| e. Man should never descend | to such low depths of inhumanity |
| f. Many other dignitaries | read speeches |
| g. Africa's current economic | and social woes |
| h. the impoverishment | of Africa |
| i. The traffic in | human beings is clearly not over |
| j. people are being forced | into...a form of enslavement |

GAP FILL:

Africans mark the end of the slave trade

Two hundred years ago, on March 25th, 1807, Britain **banned** the trade in slaves from Africa. Africans **marked** this anniversary on Sunday with a special ceremony in Ghana, from where British slave ships transported **countless** numbers of innocent black Africans to the USA. Descendants of these slaves gathered at one of the most **infamous** trading posts, Fort Elmina, known as "the door of no return". They remembered the tens of millions who crossed the Atlantic, many **perishing**, in barbaric conditions to provide free labour in the New World. Ghana's President John Kufor gave a speech **recalling** their suffering: "Through this dark era of human history, the...human spirit...could not be broken," he said. He added: "Man should never **descend** to such low **depths** of inhumanity to man as the slave trade ever again."

Many other **dignitaries** read speeches at the somber ceremony. South Africa's jazz legend Hugh Masakela blamed the slave trade for Africa's current economic and social **woes**. "We have seen the manipulation, the impoverishment of Africa...That is [**proof** of] the effects of slavery... There is no **price**, no price for what has been done," he said. British Prime Minister Tony Blair sent a recorded message expressing "**deep** sorrow and regret" for Britain's role in the slave trade. However, he did not offer a formal apology for his nation's **dark** role two centuries ago. Ghanaian poet Kofi Anyi Doho lamented that the world has not learnt the lessons of slavery, saying: "The traffic in human beings is **clearly** not over. There are no boats to anchor next to a slave fort but people are being forced into...a **form** of enslavement all over the world."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - a 2 - c 3 - d 4 - b 5 - a 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - c 10 - b 11 - c 12 - d