

UNTOLD STORIES – Stories of writers



Slide 1	To discuss where transatlantic slavery falls on the timeline in regards to learning of the Tudors and the Victorians. The abolishment of slaver in 1807.
Slide 2- 3	A timeline, sorting activity (slides can be printed and children can order them) Discuss timeline of Transatlantic slavery and British involvement.
Slide 4 - 6	Information slides Ignacious Sancho, children can magpie notes whilst reading slides.
Slide 7	A transcript of the Ignacious Letters; discussion of the validity of a primary source. Discussion of the development of the English language.
Slide 8	Quotes from commentators at the time of why Ignacious Sancho life and writings were significant at the time.
Slide 9-12	Information slides about Olaudah Equiano and his experience as a freed Salve.
Slide 13-14	Extracts from Olaudah Equiano's biography. Children to discuss and and ask questions about his life based on his writing.
Slide 15	Children to discuss how their lives may have altered racist opinion or opinions of Black people as intellectually inferior.
Slide 16	As a class to note suggestions of similarities and differences between their lives.
Slide 17	Complete writing activities.

Transatlantic Slavery



1730

Britain becomes the largest slave trading country in the world.

1792

House of Commons votes in favour of the abolition of the slave trade, but the bill is rejected by the House of Lords.

1823

Anti-Slavery Committee formed in London to campaign for the total abolition of slavery.

1807

The Transatlantic Slave Trade is abolished by the British Parliament and the US Congress.

1794

France abolishes slavery and frees all enslaved people in its colonies. Legislation is passed by US Congress to prevent American vessels being used in the slave trade.

1562

Sir John Hawkins becomes the first English slave trader. He takes 300 Africans and trades them with the Spanish and Portuguese for sugar, spices and pearls.

1607

The colony of Virginia is founded and becomes the first permanent English settlement in North America. The area soon becomes one of the main areas for enslaved Africans.

1699

By this time 80% of the Caribbean's population are slaves from Africa.

1685

Slave rebellions occur in Jamaica.

1564

With the support of the English Queen, Elizabeth I, Sir John Hawkins makes his second slavery voyage. He trades hundreds of Africans for precious metals, pearls and jewels.

1567

Sir John Hawkins makes his third slavery voyage. This time, he takes six ships and again trades hundreds of enslaved Africans in the Caribbean. On his return, his ships are ambushed by Spanish ships. Only three ships return to Plymouth, carrying just seventy out of the original 500 men.



Ignatious
Sancho (1729-
1780)



Slave to writer

- **Ignatius Sancho (1729-1780)** was said to have been born a slave on a ship crossing the Atlantic from Africa to the West Indies in 1729. His earliest personal memories were of Greenwich, near London, where he was forced to work as a child slave in 1730s. He persuaded the powerful Montagu family to employ him as their butler, before retiring to run a grocery shop in Westminster, where he died in 1780.



Slave to writer

- Sancho composed music, appeared on the stage, entertained many famous figures of literary and artistic London, and his portrait was painted by Thomas Gainsborough. The first African we know of to vote in a British election, he wrote a large number of letters which were collected and published in 1782, two years after his death.



The WISH

1801

thing you undertake – however unpromising the
Beginning may appear to be – I want you much
in town – for my own sake – that's a stroke of
Self love! – & do you Mean to bring any Candles
up with you – that's another! – I do not wonder
at your Making your way amongst the folks
of Hull – although there are four of the same
profession – we love Variety – I will give them Credit
for admiring the Artist – but if they – that is –
two or three of them – have penetration to look
deeper – & love the man – then I shall believe that
there are Souls – in Hull – So my Cramp Epistle
fell into the hands of thy good & Rev^d. father – tant
pis – Why he must think me Blacker – than I am –
Mons^r. Bare^allet goes on well – I suppose you
know – he has Opened an Academy in St. Albans
Street – at 2 guineas a year – naked figures 3
Nights a week – M^r Mortimer & several
Eminent names – upon his list – & Room left
for yours – he hops about – with that festivity

through gods Blessing – Ever finish hapily – Every
thing you undertake – however unpromising the
Beginning may appear to be – I want you much
in town – for my own sake – that's a stroke of
Self love! – & do you Mean to bring any Candles
up with you – that's another! – I do not wonder
at your making your way amongst the folkes
of Hull – although – there are four of the same
profession – we love Variety – I will give them Credit
for admiring the Artist – but if they – that is –
two or three of them – have penetration to look
deeper – & love the Man – then I shall believe that
there are Souls – in Hull – So my Cramp Epistle
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Mons^r. Bare^allet goes on well – I suppose you
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Street – at 2 guineas a year – naked figures 3
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Eminent names – upon his list – & Room left
for yours – he hops about – with that festivity

Why was he so important?

- “Of a Negro, a Butler, and a Grocer, there are but slender anecdotes to animate the page of the biographer; but it has been held necessary to give some sketch of the very singular man whose letters, with all their imperfections on their head, are now offered to the public.
- The display these writings exhibit of epistolary talent, of rapid and just conception, of wild patriotism, and of universal philanthropy, may well apologize for the protection of the great, and the friendship of the literary.”
- *(An extract from Joseph Jekyll's Life of Ignatius Sancho first appeared in The Letters of the Late Ignatius Sancho, an African, published in 1782.)*



Sancho was thought of in his age as "the extraordinary Negro", and to eighteenth-century opponents of the slave trade he became a symbol of the humanity of Africans.



Oluadah
Equiano
(1745-1797)



Slave to activist

- **Olaudah Equiano (c.1745-1797)** was an eighteenth-century African writer, antislavery activist, mariner, explorer, and Britain's first black civil servant.
- According to his famous autobiography, written in 1789, Equiano was born in what is now Nigeria. Kidnapped and sold into slavery in childhood, he was taken as a slave to the New World. As a slave to a captain in the Royal Navy, and later to a Quaker merchant, he eventually earned the price of his own freedom by careful trading and saving. As a seaman, he travelled the world, including the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, the Atlantic, and the Arctic, the latter in an abortive attempt to reach the North Pole.

THE
INTERESTING NARRATIVE
OF
THE LIFE
OF
OLAUDAH EQUIANO,
OR
GUSTAVUS VASSA,
THE AFRICAN.
WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.
VOL. I.

*Bebold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for
the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become
my salvation.
And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name,
declare his doings among the people. Isaiah xii. 2, 4.*

L O N D O N :

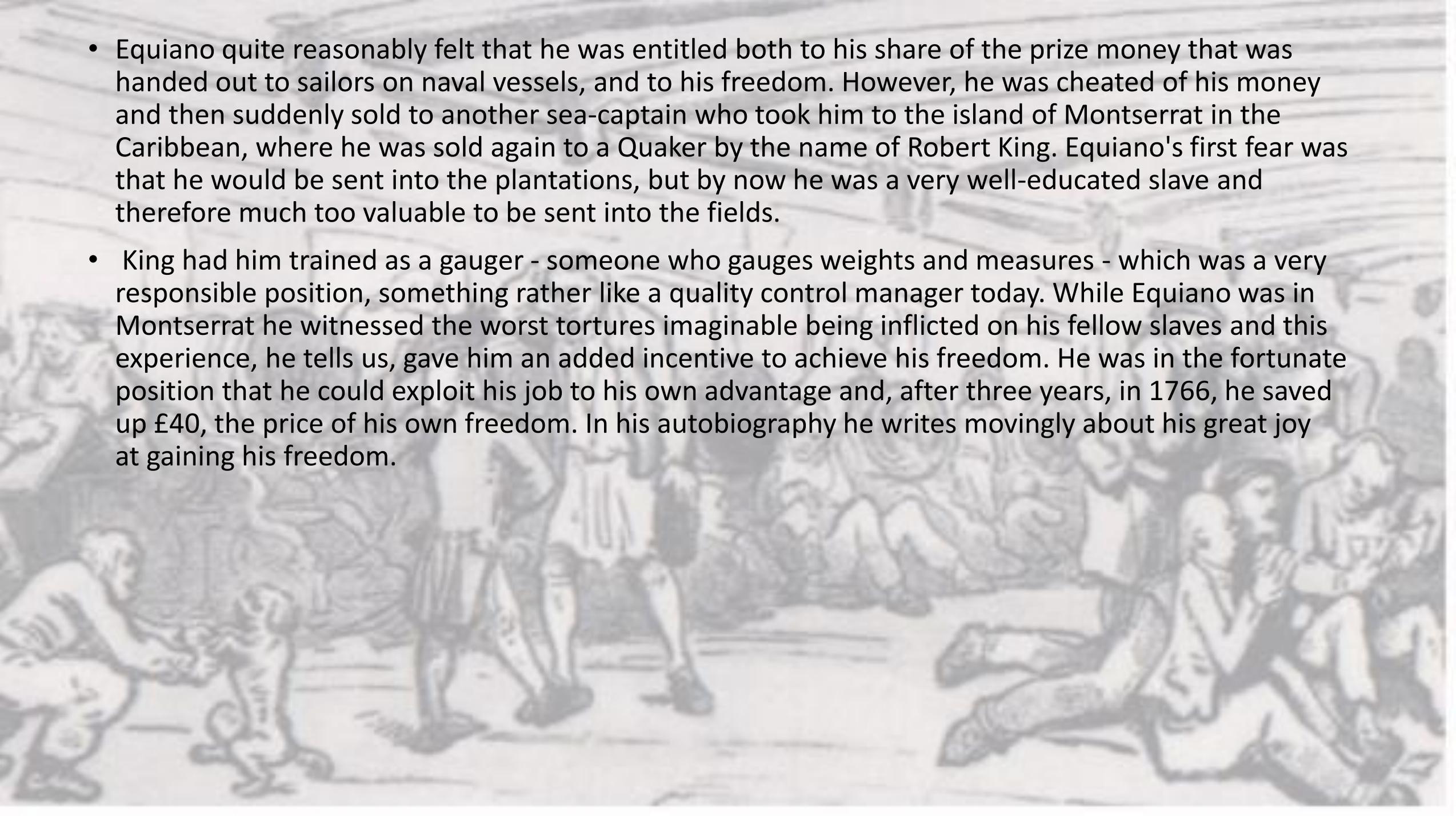
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- Almost everything we know about the first ten years of Equiano's life we find from Equiano's own account in *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African*, published in 1789. In this, Equiano tells us that he was born around the year 1745 in an area called 'Eboe' in Guinea. Ibo (or Igbo) is one of the main languages of present day Nigeria. Equiano tells us that he was the son of a chief, and that at about the age of eleven he and his sister were kidnapped while out playing, and were marched to the coast and put on board a slave ship.
- As Pascal's slave Equiano was introduced to the naval way of life which gave him opportunities that he would almost certainly have been denied had he been a plantation slave. For a start, he was brought to England and saw not only Europe but ultimately many parts of the world. But of greatest importance, he was able to learn to read and write which he did at a school in London where he was sent by Pascal.
- Equiano's schooling was thus interrupted by periods at sea. There, he would have spent much of his time as a personal servant to Pascal, but in battle his part was that of gunpowder carrier, or 'powder-monkey' as he would have been known on board ship.

- Equiano quite reasonably felt that he was entitled both to his share of the prize money that was handed out to sailors on naval vessels, and to his freedom. However, he was cheated of his money and then suddenly sold to another sea-captain who took him to the island of Montserrat in the Caribbean, where he was sold again to a Quaker by the name of Robert King. Equiano's first fear was that he would be sent into the plantations, but by now he was a very well-educated slave and therefore much too valuable to be sent into the fields.
- King had him trained as a gauger - someone who gauges weights and measures - which was a very responsible position, something rather like a quality control manager today. While Equiano was in Montserrat he witnessed the worst tortures imaginable being inflicted on his fellow slaves and this experience, he tells us, gave him an added incentive to achieve his freedom. He was in the fortunate position that he could exploit his job to his own advantage and, after three years, in 1766, he saved up £40, the price of his own freedom. In his autobiography he writes movingly about his great joy at gaining his freedom.





Olaudah Equiano
The Interesting Narrative

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS



We set sail once more for Montserrat, and arrived there safe [...] When we had unladen the vessel, and I had sold my venture, finding myself master of about forty-seven pounds - I consulted my true friend, the captain, how I should proceed in offering my master the money for my freedom. He told me to come on a certain morning, when he and my master would be at breakfast together. Accordingly, on that morning, I went, and met the captain there, as he had appointed. When I went in I made my obeisance to my master, and with my money in my hand, and many fears in my heart, I prayed him to be as good his offer to me, when he was pleased to promise me my freedom as soon as I could purchase it. This speech seemed to confound him; he began to recoil; and my heart that instant sunk within me. (Extract from chapter 7)



Olaudah Equiano
The Interesting Narrative

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS



My master then said, he would not be worse than his promise; and, taking the money, told me to go to the Secretary at the Register Office, and get my manumission drawn up. These words of my master were like a voice from heaven to me; in an instant all my trepidation was turned into unutterable bliss; and I most reverently bowed myself with gratitude, unable to express my feelings, but by the overflowing of my eyes, and a heart replete with thanks to God; while my true and worthy friend the captain congratulated us both with a peculiar degree of heartfelt pleasure. As soon as the first transports of my joy were over, and I had expressed my thanks to these my worthy friends in the best manner I was able, I rose with a heart full of affection and reverence, and left the room in order to obey my master's joyful mandate of going to the Register Office. As I was leaving the house, I called to mind the words of the Psalmist, in the 126th psalm, and like him, glorified God in my heart, in whom I trusted. (Extract from Chapter 7)

How did these men stories challenge popular opinion at the time?

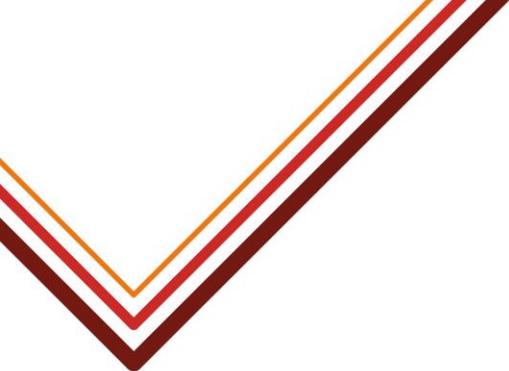


What do their stories teach us?

Similarities	Differences

We are writers

- Can you continue to research these two brilliant stories, using the sources and evidence provided to create a fact file of their experiences in Britain.
- Could you challenge to write a letter as Ignaitious Sancho to one of his friend back home about his life experiences?



Further research

<https://brycchancarey.com/equiano/extract4.htm>

<https://brycchancarey.com/sancho/index.htm>

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-only-surviving-manuscript-letters-of-ignatius-sancho>

<https://brycchancarey.com/equiano/advert.htm>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/blackhistory/rights/abolition.htm>

https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/blackhistory/rights/slave_free.htm

<https://www.npg.org.uk/learning/digital/history/abolition-of-slavery/abolition-trail.php>