Year 8 Knowledge Organiser – Empire and the Slave Trade

Key Events/Individuals

1.	1562 – John Hawkins becomes the first British man to trade in slaves	
2.	1619 – First slave is taken from Africa to work on a British owned plantation	
3.	1771 – the price of sugar falls	
4.	1787 – The Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade is established	
5.	1789 – Olaudah Equiano has his autobiography published	
6.	1830 – Toussant L'Ouverture leads a slave rebellion in Saint- Domingue	
7.	1807 – Slavery is made illegal in the British Empire	
8.	1833 – Slavery Abolition Act passed which gave all slaves in the British Empire their freedom	

The Slave Trade Triangle:

- 1. European ships took cloth, guns, iron pots, swords to Africa and exchanged them for African slaves.
- 2. Ships loaded with slaves crossed the Atlantic to America where they were sold.
- 3. Ships loaded with sugar, cotton, tobacco returned to Europe.



Key Words/Terms

11.	Slave Trade	The movement of people from Africa as slaves –sometimes referred to as the Triangular Trade
12.	Plantation	A large farm in North and South America, and the Caribbean where slaves would pick cotton, sugar or tobacco
13.	Slave ship	A ship that would take captured men, women and children from the West Coast of Africa
14.	Slave auction	Where slaves would be placed on a raised platform and sold to the highest bidder.
15.	Colony	A country that is part of an Empire. India was a colony of Britain.
16.	Branded	A slave owner would burn their initials onto a slave
17.	Rebellion	A group rising up against those who control them
18.	Inferior	A popular opinion during slavery that black Africans were not the same, or as good, as white people
19.	Independence	When a country or group of people does not want to be controlled by another group or country
20.	Parliament	The part of Government where laws are discussed and made
21.	Middle Passage	The journey of slaves on ships from Africa to America. Took 8-12 weeks. 1 in 4 died on the way.
22.	Shackles	Iron chains used to fasten the legs or hands of a slave or prisoner.
23.	Dysentery	A severe form of diarrhoea which killed many Africans on the journey across the Atlantic.

Key concepts

	9.	Abolition	The movement to end slavery - supported mostly by those of Christian faith. They believed that slavery was against the teachings of the bible and that black and white people were equal. Speeches by William Wilberforce in Parliament and former slaves such as Olaudah Equiano whose autobiography showed the terrible conditions, helped win support for abolition.
	10.	Empire	One country that controls another usually for raw materials. The colonies that are part of the Empire are usually stripped of their resources and used for the benefit of the country that controls them. Britain controlled India and other countries throughout the 1800s and used them to make money and gain more power. The British did modernise countries that they controlled by building railways, schools and hospitals.



William Wilberforce





Olaudah Equiano