What have we learned from "Roots"?

Imagine you are debating with a 18th century slave trader/owner. He makes these three points:

• Africa is poor and uncivilised
• Africans are uneducated
• Africans are heathens (they have no religion)

In pairs, think of an argument against each of these points.
Describe the effects of the slave trade on the ports of London, Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow.

Describe examples of British merchants who benefitted from the slave trade.

Explain why these ports did so well out of Atlantic slavery.
Although slavery took place in the Americas, European countries were at the heart of the trade, including Britain. Many British cities and people became very rich due to slavery.
Many different parts of Britain benefitted from slavery, but three cities in particular:

- London
- Bristol
- Liverpool

In Scotland, Glasgow had a role too.
London

For 1663-1698, London was the **only** British city allowed to trade African slaves.

Even after other cities were allowed to do so too, London continued to be a **major port** for slave ships.
The slave trade also helped people set up businesses in London which still exist today.

**Finance organisations** such as Lloyd’s, Barclays Bank, Barings Bank and the Bank of England helped provide finance to merchants, or were set up using slave trade money.
Many **slave ships** left from Bristol. The city also sold **products** grown by slaves.

Many buildings and **industries** (sugar-refining, glass making) were set up based on Bristol’s slavery role.
Liverpool was the main British port for slave ships. It had a large waterfront and was close to the Isle of Man (tax purposes) as a result it had a huge shipbuilding industry. Liverpool built over 469 slave ships. Liverpool also sold many of the products that were grown by slaves.
Glasgow

Many of the merchants that built parts of Glasgow did so using money from tobacco and sugar (slave products).

A small number of slave ships also left from the city too, although none after 1766.
Many British merchants made a great deal of money from the slave trade too.

This was either from directly selling slaves, or from trading in the goods and products that slaves were used to grow.
Thomas Leyland

Leyland was Liverpool’s richest man.

He was a small-time merchant but expanded his business to sell slaves.

Leyland fiercely argued against abolishing slavery.
Sir James Stirling of Keir came from Perth. His family owned slave plantations in Jamaica.

Richard Oswald was a Scottish merchant who set up one of the most active slave trading posts in Africa. He owned slave ships too.
Effects on the Caribbean
Arawak natives became slaves
Before African slavery, native Americans were forced to work as slaves in the Caribbean.

Loss of native land
Land which had been owned by Arawak tribes was taken by European colonists to grow products for sale in Europe.
Arawaks killed by disease
Native Americans’ immune systems could not cope with European diseases such as smallpox.

Lack of workers
After slavery was abolished there was a lack of workers. Many Asian people then moved to the Caribbean.
Poor slave treatment
Slaves were treated very poorly, working long hours in hot conditions. More slaves died than were born.

Increased population
African slaves led to a big population increase in the Caribbean, putting pressure on food and water supplies.
Many Caribbean islands are demanding **compensation** from European colonists.

Governments in various islands believe countries such as Britain should **apologise** for the impact of the slave trade.
Changing culture
Africans brought their own culture and traditions to the islands, including music.

The *voodoo* religion was a created from a mixture of African religion and French Catholicism on the island of Haiti.
Redemption song

• Bob Marley is one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century.

• In “Redemption song” he considerer how the people of the Caribbean can redeem themselves from the long lasting shadow that the history of slavery has cast.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12QZDSaBfps
The following information is about the benefits the slave trade brought to Britain:

By the 18th century, slavery was seen as essential to Britain’s economy and power, therefore accepted as the norm. The profits had given merchants and planters involved enough wealth and power to found banks and other financial institutions, acquire immense political power. They were able to build stately homes, marry into the aristocracy, and invest in industrial enterprises.

The trade helped strengthen Britain’s domestic economy, with 150,000 guns each year being exported to Africa from Birmingham alone. As well as making a fortune in the trading of Africans, Birmingham also dominated copper manufacture, as this vital trade was highly valued by Africans and was used for trade. The custom duties on slave grown imports were an important source of government income.

200 years supporters of the Slave Trade were successful in drowning out the voices of opposition arguing its necessity to Britain, and how taking Africans from their homeland benefited them.

Taken from the Pro Slavery webpage of the Recovered Histories website (http://www.recoveredhistories.org/storiesproslavery.php#reading)
Use the information above and your own knowledge to explain the nature of the British Atlantic slave trade and how changing attitudes led to its abolition.

You should:

1. Explain the reasons why people supported the Slave Trade in the 18th Century.

You should identify at least three reasons from the information above, which should be written in your own words.

You should also give at least three reasons (or two reasons in detail) from your own knowledge.

You should answer this like a ‘How fully’ question)
How fully does the source explain the reasons why people in Britain supported the slave trade in the 18th century?
How useful is source A as evidence of how Africans became enslaved?

Source A is from the diary of an explorer who visited Africa in 1796.

The African can become enslaved for various reasons. This can be the result of breaking tribal laws. However, war is the most common reason. Be this as it may, it is a known fact prisoners of war in Africa are the slaves of the conquerors; and when the weak or unsuccessful warrior begs for mercy beneath the uplifted spear of his opponent, he gives up at the same time his claim to liberty and purchases his life at the expense of freedom.
Would you rather?
• Be able to fly OR be able to breathe underwater?
• Eat only mashed potatoes and have perfect teeth OR eat whatever you like but have no teeth
• Work for no money but be guaranteed food and shelter OR be free but live in extreme poverty
Revision

You will have 10 minutes to read over your notes. Answer the questions in the key notes revision file.

1) Origins of the Atlantic Slave Trade
2) The Triangular Trade
3) The Effects of the Slave Trade: Africa
How did Britain benefit from the slave trade?

Learning intention:

Describe the various ways that Britain benefitted from its involvement in the slave trade.
It is undeniable that Britain had a strong involvement in the slave trade. Most of the benefits of this were financial, although there were other ways Britain gained too.
How did Britain benefit from the Slave trade?

- Finance
- Goods
- Employment
- Population
- Cities and people
- Military
Finance

Money is the most obvious benefit from the trade. British merchants sold slaves as well as the products they grew. This made many people rich and raised huge amounts of taxes for the government.
Goods

Being part of the slave trade gave Britons access to the goods that slaves sold.

Although products such as coffee were still expensive, they were still cheaper than may have been the case without slave links.
Employment

Slavery created jobs in Britain. Directly it employed people in the finance sector and industries like shipbuilding.

It also helped provide the money to fund the industrial revolution.
Population

Britain’s population changed and grew thanks to the availability of jobs. The slave trade helped achieve this.

Cities such as **Liverpool** saw a huge population increase to work in the city’s shipyards.
Military

Britain’s military was stronger due to slavery. Building slave ships led to improvements in military vessel designs.

The tax money raised let Britain build a bigger navy. Navy sailors also gained navigation experience on slave ships.
Cities and people across Britain also became rich thanks to the slave trade. This was based on selling slaves, or on working in industries related to this. A huge amount of money in Glasgow came from this.
Explain how Britain benefitted from the slave trade: 5 words or less

- Finance-
- Goods-
- Employment-
- Population-
- Cities and people
- Military-
The Merchants?

• If Slavery brought wealth employment and a better standard of living to the cities of Liverpool, Bristol, London and Glasgow should we be thankful or ashamed of the merchants?
The Liverpool debate!

Read chapter 5 (pg36) in your textbook telling the story of Robert Leyland and the voyage of the enterprise.

Read Activity 4- write a letter to your councillor in favour or against changing the name of a street from Leyland Road.
Impact of the Slave Trade on Britain from different points of view

Choose a city or person who could be said to have benefitted from the slave trade

- London
- Liverpool
- Bristol
- Scotland

Individuals – Thomas Leyland, member of the public, manufacturer of iron goods etc.
Make a diagram/poster to show how your chosen port/individual was affected by the slave trade
You can do this individually or in pairs

You will need to be able to provide a detailed explanation to others of what the impact was on your choice of topic

You will present this information to the class and then they will be quizzed on it!
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How to do it…

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BINGO

Bond Servant and rum

Cannibals

Thomas Leyland

Slave factories

John Glassford

Sugar traders

Arawack

Guns, tools

African