

Abolitionist Arguments

Explain the different reasons why people were opposed to the slave trade.

Describe methods used by abolitionists to publicise their cause



Case study - The *Zong*

The slave ship *Zong* was owned by two Liverpool merchants who had both been mayors of Liverpool. It left the coast of Africa in September 1781. Far more enslaved Africans had been packed onto the ship than the hold was adapted for. Disease spread quickly, helped along by malnutrition. By November 1781, sixty Africans had died. Captain Luke Collingwood decided to throw another 131 Africans overboard to stop the disease. The traders had **insured** the cargo.



The case of the Zong went to court.

What crime do you think the slave traders were accused of?



you will now take on the role of a person living in 1781

Imagine you have just read an article about the case of the Zong

your new persona- write a tweet in response to what you have just read.

Think about if you could be aware of the conditions of the middle passage- or is this news to you?





There were many different arguments used against the slave trade.

These focused on moral and economic arguments and helped the campaign win many supporters.

Moral arguments

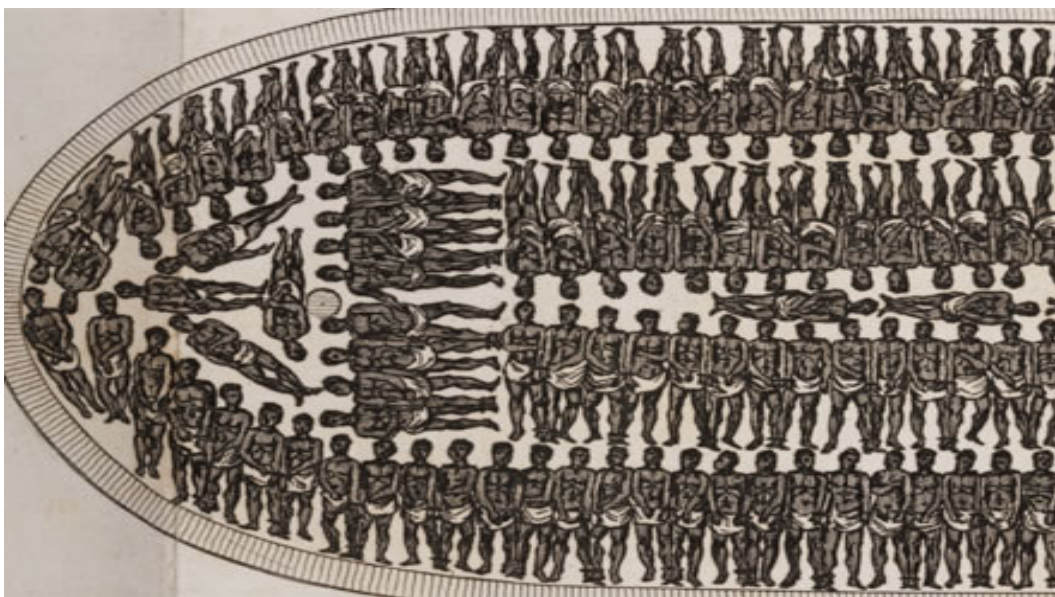
Abolitionists argued that it was completely wrong to own and control another human being.

Religious groups opposed the trade on the grounds that it was against God's will.





Other people argued that the slave trade caused wars in Africa, making Britain responsible for this.



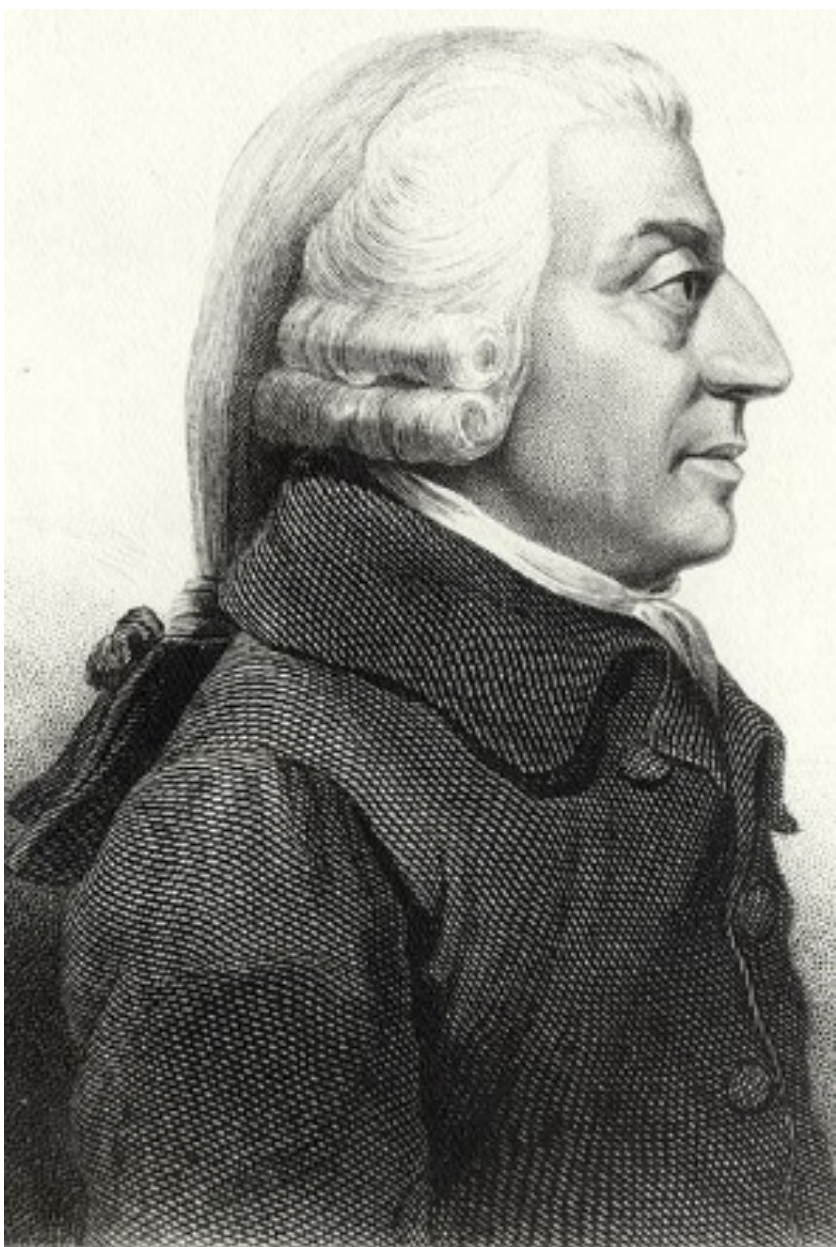
Others said that the cruel conditions of slavery and the Middle Passage meant the trade should be abolished.

Economic arguments

Others preferred to focus on economic arguments, hoping to persuade people this way.

One point argued was that the slave trade cost jobs in Britain, as slaves were doing work which Britons should be paid for.





Others (such as Adam Smith)
said slavery was more
expensive than paying people
because slaves worked less
well.

Some said that as Britain had
better trade with other parts of
the world it was possible to get
goods from elsewhere at a
cheaper price.

How would you counter pro slavery arguments ?

Ending the slave trade would be a disaster to the British economy

Slaves in the West Indies are fed and provided with shelter- they are better off than the British working classes

The slave trade employs many from all classes- the wealth created trickles down to the lower classes

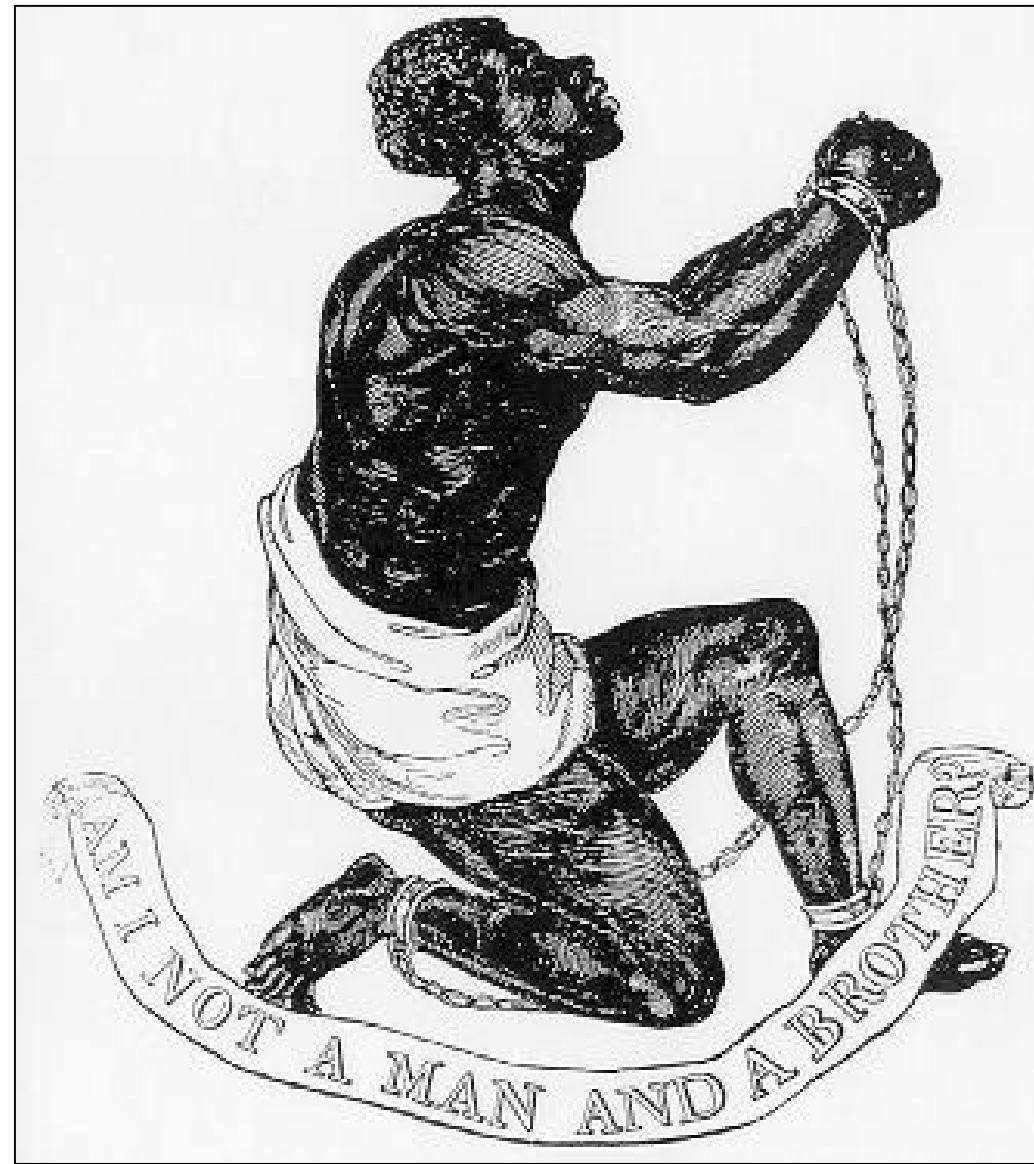
Ending slavery will make sugar tobacco and cotton less affordable

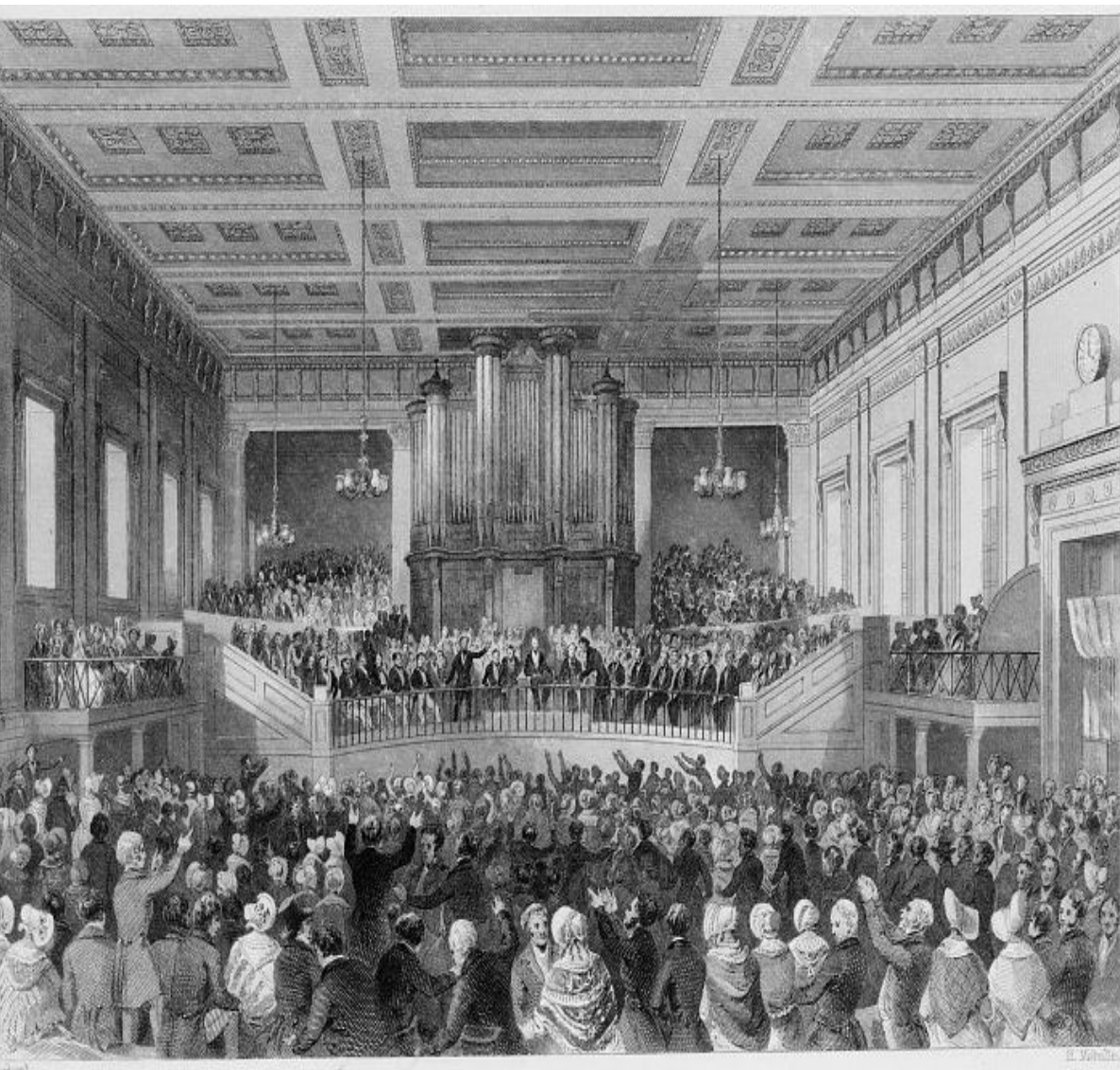


Tactics
Used

Anti-slavery
campaigners used many
different tactics to win
support for their cause.
Anti-slavery groups
were set up.

Books, newspapers,
pamphlets and **leaflets**
were produced arguing
against the trade.





Public meetings were held across the country too, including former slaves as speakers.

Religious groups spoke out against the trade, both at religious services and other special meetings too.

A campaign was set up to persuade people to boycott (refuse to buy) sugar produced by slaves.

Some MPs – especially William Wilberforce – spoke out against slavery and tried to introduce laws against it.



WEDGWOOD

ENGLAND 1759



Josiah Wedgwood, founder of the famous Wedgwood pottery company, was a slave abolitionist.

His company produced a medallion titled '**Am I not a man and a brother?**' which became a very popular design.

Question practise

1. Describe the methods used by the Abolitionists to publicise their cause.

You should describe at least three methods (or two methods in detail) from your own knowledge.

Pamphlets

Images

Public speeches and meetings/Ex slaves

Campaign in Parliament