

# Life and Work on the Plantation

Life for enslaved men on the Rozell Plantation

Lesson 1





# Starter Task



I see...

I think...

I wonder...



## Learning Intentions

Today we will be learning about life for enslaved men on Caribbean plantations, by using the records of the Rozell Plantation.

## Success Criteria

We will be able to **explain** what a plantation was by **analysing** the records of the Rozell Plantation.

We will be able to **describe** the living and working conditions of enslaved men on Caribbean plantations.

# Understanding the context when learning from historical records:



## The language:

This is an extract from the records of the Rozell Plantation. The record lists the names and jobs of enslaved people living there in 1770.

*Example:*

“An account of the **Negroes** & Stock, upon Rozell Plantation in St Thomas in the East 1st January 1770”

**What do you  
already know about  
the history of the  
'Ne' word?**

This discussion requires  
**sensitivity, respect and  
maturity.**

**Think about what words you  
choose to speak aloud.**



# The history of the 'Ne' word and why we cannot use it

This racist slur is used regularly in historical records from the era of Atlantic slavery and is the basis of the modern day 'n' word.

- This word was **de-humanising** and **began to be widely** used during the era of Atlantic slavery to **uphold the system of white supremacy**.
- **The word was often spoken before the first name of an enslaved person.** For instance, a Black and white person may have shared the name 'George'. The Black person would often have had the word 'Ne' word used before their name.
- This **distinguished** Black enslaved people from white enslavers.
- The term was connected to the development of **European racism**, particularly the idea that humans are divided into different 'races', with some races inferior to others. 'Ne' word was the name given to the 'race' of people of African descent.
- It is considered a **racially abusive slur and offensive when used by white and non-Black people** because of the history of **white violence** and its links to slavery, racism and oppression against Black people.

## Task

In your groups look through the handout and **discuss** as many things that you notice about the document.

What might they mean or tell you? *Write these in your jotters.*

An account of the Negroes & Stock, upon Rozell Plantation in St Thomas in  
the East 1st January 1770

Mars	)	1	Pero	)	50	Amintas	1	Cattle of all kinds	
Duke	) Drivers	2	Roxell	) Watchmen	51	Colia	2		
Jupiter	)	3	Hazard	)	52	Clarinda	3		57 Steers
Argyle	)	4	Francis	) Cattle men	53	Chance	4		16 Cows
Bachus	)	5	Hugh	) &	54	Dolly	5		4 Heifers
Bacon	)	6	Hector	) Boys	55	Diana	6		1 Bull



## An account of the Negroes & Stock,

Once people were taken from Africa they were bought by others. This meant that they were now seen as the property of their owners, who could treat them and call them what they chose.



Cattle of all kinds

57 Steers

16 Cows

4 Heifers

1 Bull

Businesses and shops keep a 'stock count' – what does it tell you about how they viewed enslaved people by accounting for them alongside their animals?



upon Rozell Plantation in St Thomas in

The Rozelle plantation was first owned by Robert Hamilton, a merchant from Ayr.

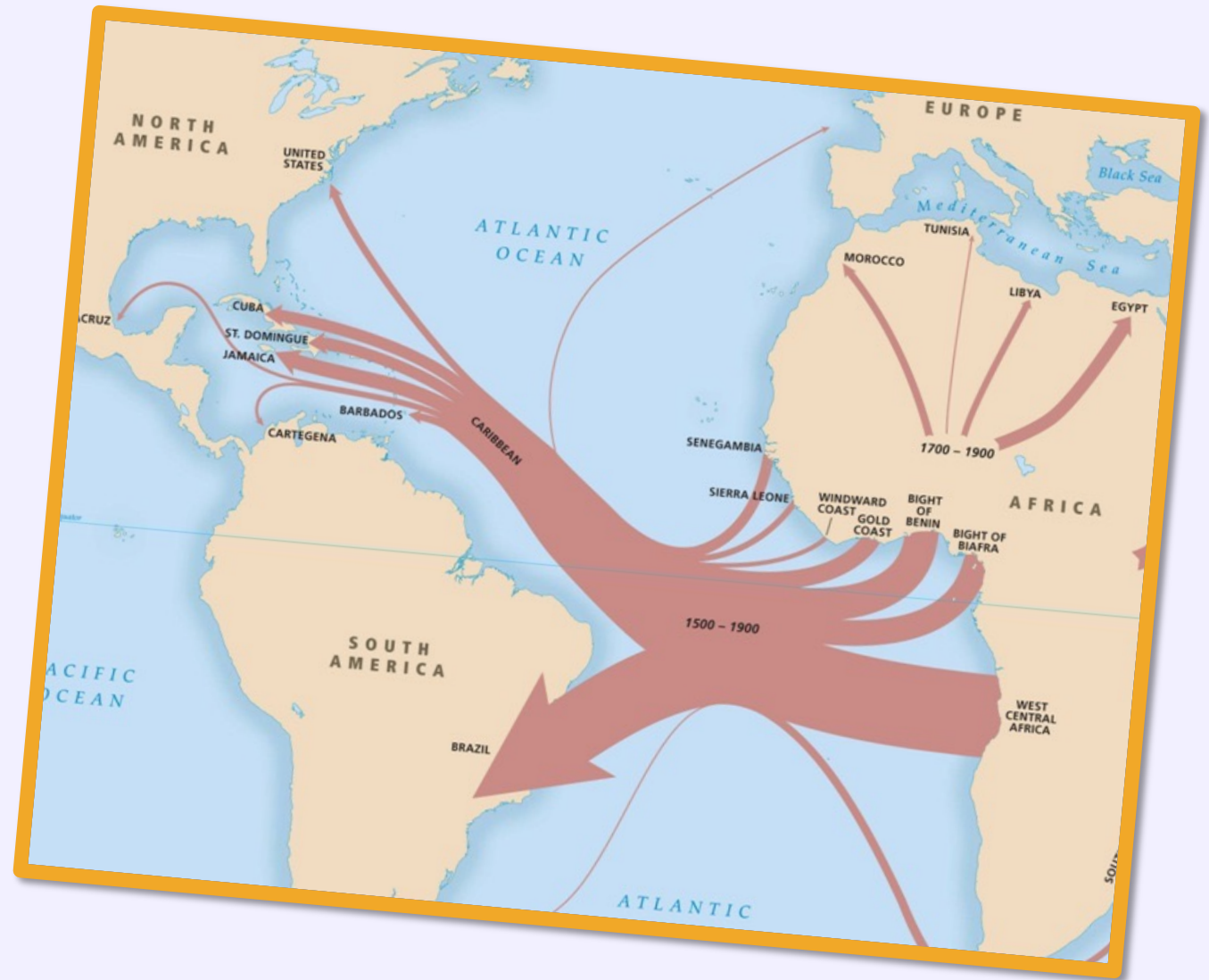
upon Rozell Plantation in St Thomas in

People from Africa were taken to British colonies in the Caribbean. St Thomas is on the largest island, Jamaica. Here they mostly cultivated sugarcane.



the East 1st January 1770

Britain abolished the transporting of people from Africa to the Caribbean in 1807.



Plantations owners enslaved both men and women. When they were bought they were often given new English names, also names based on Classical Greek/Roman history, or those of specific places etc.

Mars	)	1	Pero	)	50	Amintas	1
Duke	) Drivers	2	Roxell	) Watchmen	51	Colia	2
Jupiter	)	3	Hazard	)	52	Clarinda	3
Argyle	)	4	Francis	) Cattle men	53	Chance	4
Bachus	)	5	Hugh	) &	54	Dolly	5
Bacon	)	6	Hector	) Boys	55	Diana	6

Can you see any Scottish placenames?



A person born in the Caribbean was, **by law**, an enslaved person if their mother was. Young children were also captured from their homes in Africa as they were easier to kidnap and would grow into strong adults.

Hector	) Boys
Quamino	
Tom	a groom
Hamlett	waits on the overseer

Young children did different jobs to adults such as picking weeds and "waiting on"/serving those in charge of the plantation, gathering rubbish and bringing water to the field.

There are also a few Akan names (from today's Ghana) on the list: Quamino, Mimba, Quashy (today spelled Kwasi), Quasheba etc. Why might this be?

Hector	) Boys
<u>Quamino</u>	
Tom	a groom
Hamlett	waits on the overseer

Alongside women, male slaves aged 18-30 were the most desirable people for plantation owners to purchase because they were seen as being able to do hard manual work.

What type of work did enslaved men have to do on the Rozelle Plantation?

Mars	)	1	Pero	)
Duke	) Drivers	2	Roxell	) Watchmen
Jupiter	)	3	Hazard	)
Argyle		4	Francis	) Cattle men
Bachus		5	Hugh	) &
Bacon		6	Hector	) Boys
Beckford		7	Quamino	
Cuero		8	Tom	a groom
Crawford		9	Hamlett	waits on the
Charles		10		overseer
Don Quixote		11	Caesar	a black doctor
Duke		12	Tom	)
Dublin		13	Dick	) Coopers
Fortune		14	Will	) Masons
George		15	Ned	)
Glasgow		16	Johnnie	Hog keeper
Hannibal		17	Old Tow-Hill	)

## Task



**Watch** the video  
& **write** down  
information about  
the work done:

In the field  
In the house  
By overseers  
By drivers  
Extra work

( from 4:54 – 11:44)



**Reconstruction of  
enslaved people's cabin  
on Seville Plantation,  
Jamaica.**



**Scan Me**



## Discuss



Interior of a 'slave hut' on Barbados, published in **1820** by John Augustine Waller, a **British** surgeon who travelled the Caribbean in 1807.

Do you think enslaved peoples' homes would really have looked like this?

Why/why not?



Scan Me



Interior of a slave hut on Barbados, published in **1820** by John Augustine Waller, a **British** surgeon who travelled the Caribbean in 1807.

Enslaved people's homes had little inside them – one room with dirt floors. Residents often slept on straw.

Families lived in these wooden houses, built by themselves.

Sometimes there could be 8-10 people living in these houses.





**Describe** the living and working conditions of enslaved men on plantations.(4)



## Plenary exercise

**Give me 5 facts you have learned today about what life would have been like for enslaved men on the Rozelle Plantation.**





**Developed by**

Samantha Sweeney (Drumchapel High School), Stephanie Morrison (Porthleven Academy) and Jemma McKay (Broughton High School) as part of the Teaching Slavery in Scotland project at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling Universities.



**Funded by**



**Design by**

