

**How similar were  
enslaved people's  
rebellions and  
revolutions in the  
Caribbean?**



# Caribbean Rebellions – Background Information



# Enslaved People's Rebellions in the Caribbean



# Timeline of Rebellions

## Caribbean Rebellions

**St John's Rebellion**  
1733

**Haitian Revolution**  
1791-1804

**Christmas Rebellion**  
1831-1832

## Other Rebellions/Revolutions

**Jacobite Rebellion**  
1715

**American Wars of Independence**  
1765- 1783

**French Revolution**  
1789

**Irish Rebellion**  
1798

**Mexican Wars of Independence**  
1810-1821

## World events

**Treaty of Union joining Scotland and England**  
1707

**Handel's Messiah first performance**  
1742  
[Hallelujah Chorus by Detroit Symphony Orchestra](#)

**Montgolfier brothers invent the hot air balloon**  
1783

**Horatio Nelson dies at the Battle of Trafalgar**  
1805



# St John Rebellion summary

- [Slave Revolts in the Caribbean: St John Insurrection \(Historia Africana\)](#)
- One reason for the rebellion was the increase in punishments for enslaved people.
- The Danish rulers could not cope with the rebellion.
- Other European powers sent troops to put the rebellion down.
- Breffu and other enslaved leaders took their own lives rather than return to slavery.

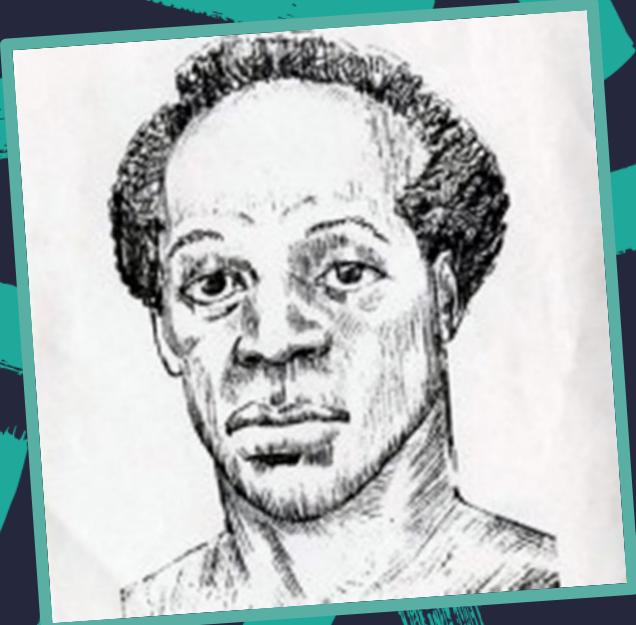
# Haitian Rebellion

## summary

- [22nd August 1791: Start of the Haitian Revolution \(History Pod\)](#)
- The French revolution (1789) sent shockwaves across the globe.
- Many enslaved people believed that the revolutionary beliefs of equality, friendship and freedom included them.
- Leaders of the rebellion came from different backgrounds.
- Haiti became the first ever Black Republic founded by former slaves.



# Christmas Rebellion summary



- [Sam Sharpe—His Story \(Syrom Picturez\)](#)
- The Society for the Abolition of Slavery had been putting pressure on the British government to end slavery.
- Sam Sharpe and his allies called a general strike of enslaved people demanding wages and better conditions.
- The authorities over-reacted which brought a violent reaction from the slaves.
- The Parliament in Westminster gradually ended slavery.

**How similar were  
enslaved people's  
rebellions and  
revolutions in the  
Caribbean?**

Can you tell me?





# How similar were enslaved people's rebellions and revolutions in the Caribbean?

You are going to gather evidence and help you answer the question above.

You will have to take on the identity of a rebellion or revolution. One person will be the *St John rebellion*, another will be *Haitian revolution*. A third will be the *Christmas rebellion*.

You each will be issued with information cards for your rebellion or revolution.

Start with *Causes and Leaders cards*.

Roll the dice with statements written on it. Read out the statement facing the roof. Look at your cards.

Raise your hand and say "I can tell you" if you can give a response to the prompt on the dice face.

Read it to the group. If the rest agree, lay your card down in the correct section of the board.

The aim is to be the person with no cards left.

Now do the same with *European Involvement* and *How it ended* cards.

Again, remember to raise your hand and say "I can tell you" if you can give an answer.

**Now you have 40 mins to gather your evidence.**



## Question

How similar were enslaved people's rebellions and revolutions in the Caribbean?

We are now going to answer the above question in the style of National 5 answer 9mark mini essay.

### This is an SQA marking scheme for this type of question:

Up to **4 marks** should be given for presenting the answer in a structured way, leading to a conclusion which addresses the question, as follows

- 1 mark for an introduction. (which places the question in its historical context or outlines relevant factors)
- 1 mark for the answer being presented in a structured way. (with knowledge being organised in support of different factors)
- 1 mark for a conclusion with a valid judgement. (or overall summary)
- 1 mark for a reason in support of the judgement.

Give 1 mark for each relevant, factual, key points of knowledge used to support factors: up to a maximum of 5 marks. If only one factor is presented, a maximum of 3 marks should be given for relevant points of knowledge.



## Question

How similar were enslaved people's rebellions and revolutions in the Caribbean?

**I** (Introduction)

**F** (Factor in the question)

**A** (Alternative factors)

**C** (Conclusion)

**E** (Evidence)

Your teacher will now take you through the layout they prefer.

Good luck



## Question

How similar were enslaved people's rebellions and revolutions in the Caribbean?

### Model answer introduction

Many millions of African people were shipped across the Atlantic ocean to work as slaves in the Caribbean.

Africans never stopped fighting for their freedom. This could take the form of working slowly all the way to a full-blown revolution like the one which created Haiti.

This answer argues that there were few similarities between rebellions and revolutions in the Caribbean and that there were more differences between them.



## Question

How similar were enslaved people's rebellions and revolutions in the Caribbean?

### **Factor** **The similarities**

One similarity was that all slave rebellions or revolutions had African people involved in the fight to gain freedom.

Another similarity was that violence was always used. For example even though the Christmas Rebellion started off as a peaceful strike it ended with hundreds of enslaved people being executed.

A final similarity is that International powers got involved to try and end the revolution. For example Polish soldiers being used to end the Haitian revolution and then swapping sides to help the enslaved people to victory.



## Question

How similar were enslaved people's rebellions and revolutions in the Caribbean?

### **Alternative the differences**

Each rebellion or revolution had different causes. For example the St John rebellion started after a series of natural disasters such as a plague of locusts and a drought.

The leaders were also different in each rebellion or revolution. Toussaint was an educated Black man whereas Breffu was an enslaved Black woman.

The way the rebellions and revolutions ended was also different. St John rebellion and the Christmas rebellion ended with the European powers enforcing slavery again, whereas the Haitian Revolution successfully ended slavery.



## Question

How similar were enslaved people's rebellions and revolutions in the Caribbean?

### **Conclusion evidence**

Overall it would be wrong to say all enslaved people's rebellions and revolutions were the same. There were too many differences between each rebellion or revolution for this to be true.

There were differences in causes, leadership, European involvement and how they ended. For example Haiti became the first ever Black republic in the Caribbean however many other rebellions and revolutions ended in failure and the loss of many black people's lives.



**Developed by**

Andrew Brown (Craigie High School) as part of the Teaching Slavery in Scotland project at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling Universities.



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



**Funded by**



**Design by**

