

What did resistance to slavery look like?

Lesson 3: How did enslaved people resist every day?



Learning Intentions

Success Criteria

I can **describe** the different forms of every day resistance used on Caribbean plantations to resist enslavement

I can **evaluate** the impact of each method, justifying my decision with historical evidence

I can use my **knowledge** of every day resistance to **answer** a 'Describe and a How Fully' question using the appropriate structures



**Covert
Resistance**



Starter Task



How can we resist in school?

If you didn't like something your teacher was doing, or you don't like a particular class – how do you resist those things?

Task

You will now complete a task to learn about the ways in which enslaved people would resist their enslavement in their everyday lives.

This covert resistance happened 'every day' unlike violent overt resistance such as rebellions.



All slaves want to be free-to be free is very sweet. I will say the truth to English people who may read this history that my good friend Miss. S---, is now writing down for me. I have been a slave myself --I know what slaves feel -- I can tell by myself what other slaves feel, and by what they have told me. **The man that says slaves be quite happy in slavery - - that they don't want to be free -- that man is either ignorant or a lying person.** I never heard a slave say so. I never heard a Buckra man say so, till I heard tell of it in England. Such people ought to be ashamed of themselves."

– Mary Prince, formerly enslaved abolitionist



Task

Method of Resistance	What is it? Describe – at least three points	What impact did it have?	How was it limited in its impact?
Christianity	<p>In these spaces, paraphrase at least three facts about the type of resistance.</p> <p>Remember: paraphrasing is a useful skill for both your source questions in History, but also own words questions in English.</p>	<p>In these spaces, tell me how this resistance would have helped them to resist – what benefit they would have gained, the successes of this type of resistance.</p>	<p>In these spaces, tell me how this resistance would have been limited - did it affect less people, were there laws against it, did it have minimal positive impact?</p> <p>You may need to think outside the box with this one and make your own conclusions!</p>
Maintaining Culture			
Poisoning			

Task

Impact

On the worksheet, for each method colour in the thermometer to show how much impact you think it had in helping the enslaved take back power from their enslavers – **consider the EASE of this resistance for the enslaved person, or the feeling of power you think it would have given them.**

Then in the right hand column, explain your decision.



Extension



Plenary exercise

**Following what we have learned,
how do you feel about these quotes?**

Most recently, in *Rituals of Resistance* Jason Young defines resistance to slavery as, **“any tactic that slaves undertook to disrupt [the] forced extraction [of labour].”**

“If slave resistance was endemic, it was only overt in special circumstances.”
Michael Craton

“the most prevalent forms of resistance were not necessarily the most effective nor the most important.” Bernard Moitt

“...most enslaved people recognized that escaping slavery was unlikely and were therefore preoccupied with the challenge of survival” Randy M Browne

“Slave resistance of one kind or another was a constant feature of slavery. Only the forms varied across time and place, according to circumstances and opportunities” Michael Craton

“The general ambition of the enslaved was to avoid being subjected to the cruelty, inhumanity and dehumanization of slavery.” Dawn Miles



Homework

Source A

Resistance took many different forms. There was day to day resistance, not designed to overthrow the slavery system but to make it less efficient. Examples of this would be killing livestock or pretending to be ill so work took longer to be completed. Another form was cultural resistance- maintaining one's cultural identity by rejecting the European cultural practices and practicing African ones in secret. Enslaved workers would practice obeah, a belief system that involved practices that were African in its origins. Some enslaved workers maintained the languages of the regions of Africa from which they came, which was passed down and spoken in secret. Many enslaved workers committed suicide rather than lived as slaves.

Practice Questions:

1. Describe the ways enslaved people used covert methods to resist their enslavement (4)
6 minutes if practicing timed
2. How fully does Source A describe resistance on Caribbean plantations? (6)
9 minutes if practicing timed



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