

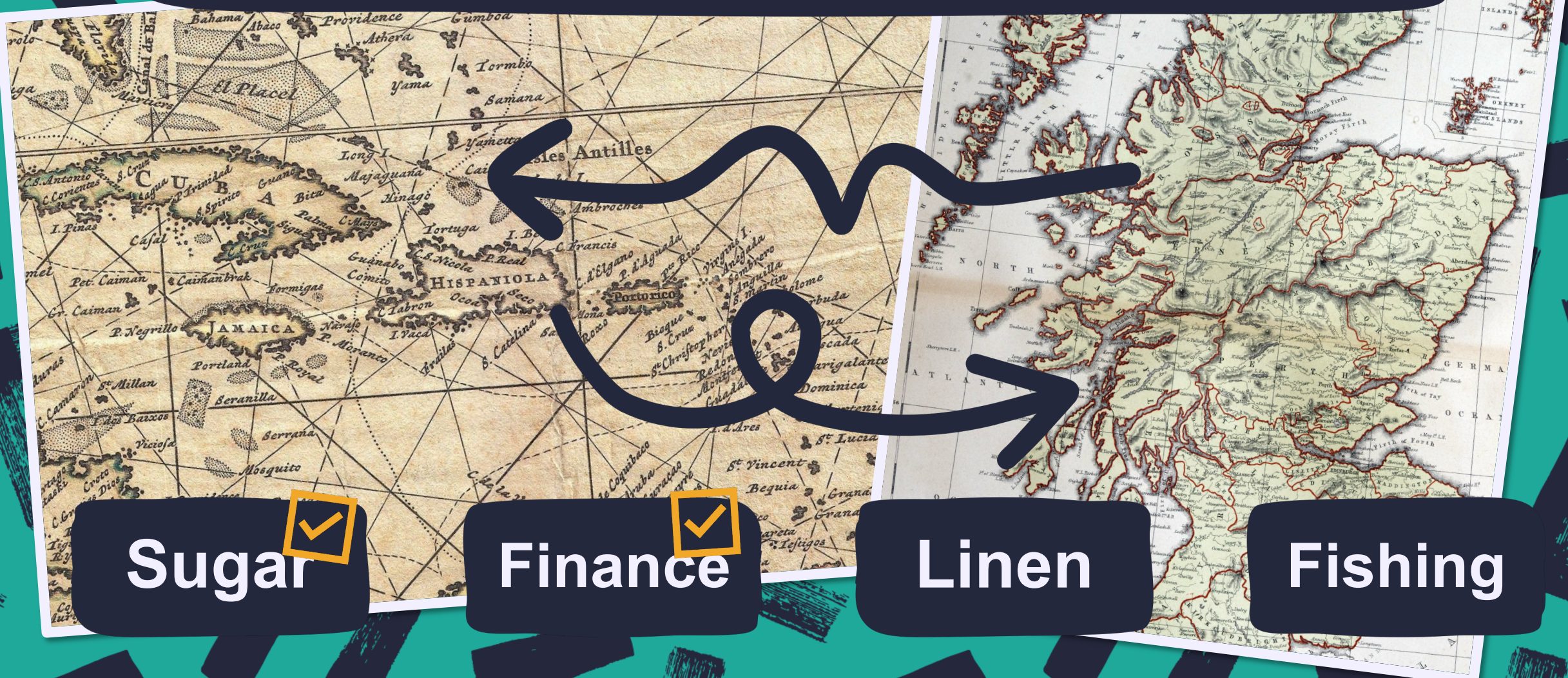
Scotland & Caribbean Connections

What was the most significant link between the Caribbean and the Scottish Economy?

Lesson 3



We will discuss four connections:



Sugar

Finance

Linen

Fishing



Starter Task

1. Which **Scottish city** is this?
2. What do you think the most **important industry** in this city was in the late 1700s and early 1800s?
3. In what ways do you think this industry was **linked to Atlantic slavery**?



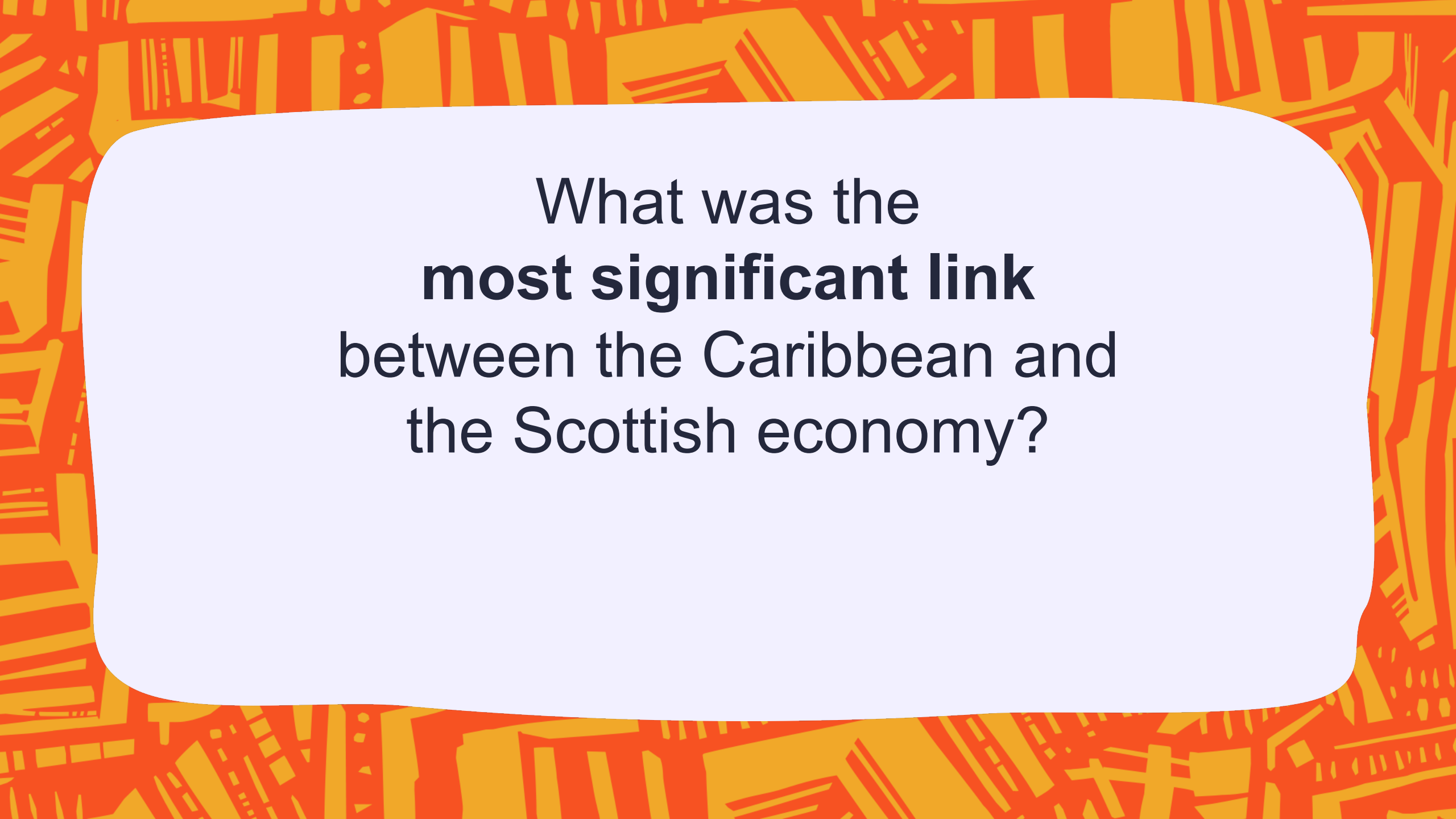


Starter Task

1. This is **Dundee**
2. For nearly 200 years, Dundee's economy depended on the **textile industry**, in particular the manufacturing of jute grown in India. However, before jute, **linen** was another significant commodity in Dundee.
3. Large quantities of linen produced in Dundee was **used to clothe enslaved people** in the 1700s and early 1800s.



“Indirectly profits derived from the exploitation of the transatlantic slave economy have impacted upon various sectors of the city, from its built environment to its cultural and educational institutions”. University of Dundee Founders Report, page 13



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Linen

Learning Intentions

To learn about the linen industry in Scotland in the 18th and 19th century and it's links with the Caribbean economy.

Success Criteria

Describe the type of linen produced in Scotland which was exported to clothe enslaved people on plantations.

Analyse sources to be able to explain the importance of the linen industry in at least one Scottish city.

Discuss the overall significance of the links between linen produced in Scotland and the Caribbean economy.

National Museum of Scotland

“The substantial profits made from the unpaid, forced labour of African people is said by many to have kickstarted Britain’s industrial revolution. Linen was one such industry that developed out of the Transatlantic slave system, creating thousands of new jobs and opportunities for other supporting industries across the nation. Rough, coarse linen, known as Osnaburg, was exported in huge quantities to clothe enslaved people on plantations.

This heavy demand encouraged the British government to subsidise the linen industry in the mid-18th century”.

Lisa Williams, National Museums Scotland,
Scotland and the Transatlantic slave system

Discuss

- 1) **What was the name given to the rough, coarse lined exported in huge quantities to clothe enslaved people on plantations?**
- 2) **The quote mentions the British government subsidised the linen industry.**

What does this mean?



Question

What about the Scottish economy?

“Scotland mostly produced coarse linen for export, 90% of [the linen that was exported] was sold to plantations in the Americas for clothing enslaved people.”

V&A Museum in Dundee

“There is no disagreement amongst economic historians about the place that the linen industry occupied in the Scottish economy during the first three-quarters of the eighteenth century”

Alastair J. Durie, *“The Markets for Scottish Linen, 1730-1775”*,
The Scottish Historical Review, 52:153,
Edinburgh University Press, 1973, p. 30



Task

So let's explore how this linen industry was linked to the Caribbean economy.

Each group/pair will be allocated one source to analyse.

Read the source and answer the questions. Be prepared to share your findings with the rest of the class.



Question

- 1. Which Scottish towns and/or cities are mentioned in the source?**
- 2. Write down at least one sentence from the source which emphasises the importance of the linen industry in this area of Scotland.**
- 3. In what ways was the linen industry connected to other industries linked to Atlantic slavery?**



Plenary exercise

'The linen industry had some links to the Caribbean economy but other industries were more significant.'



Task

- Do you **agree** or **disagree** with this statement?
- What **evidence** from today's lesson could you use to **argue against** this statement?



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