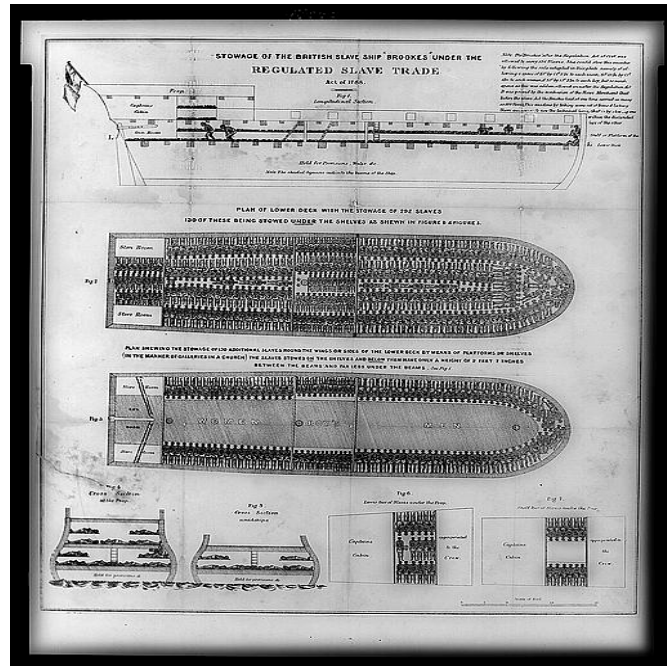


**Handout Information.**  
**200 Years of Emancipation from Slavery.**

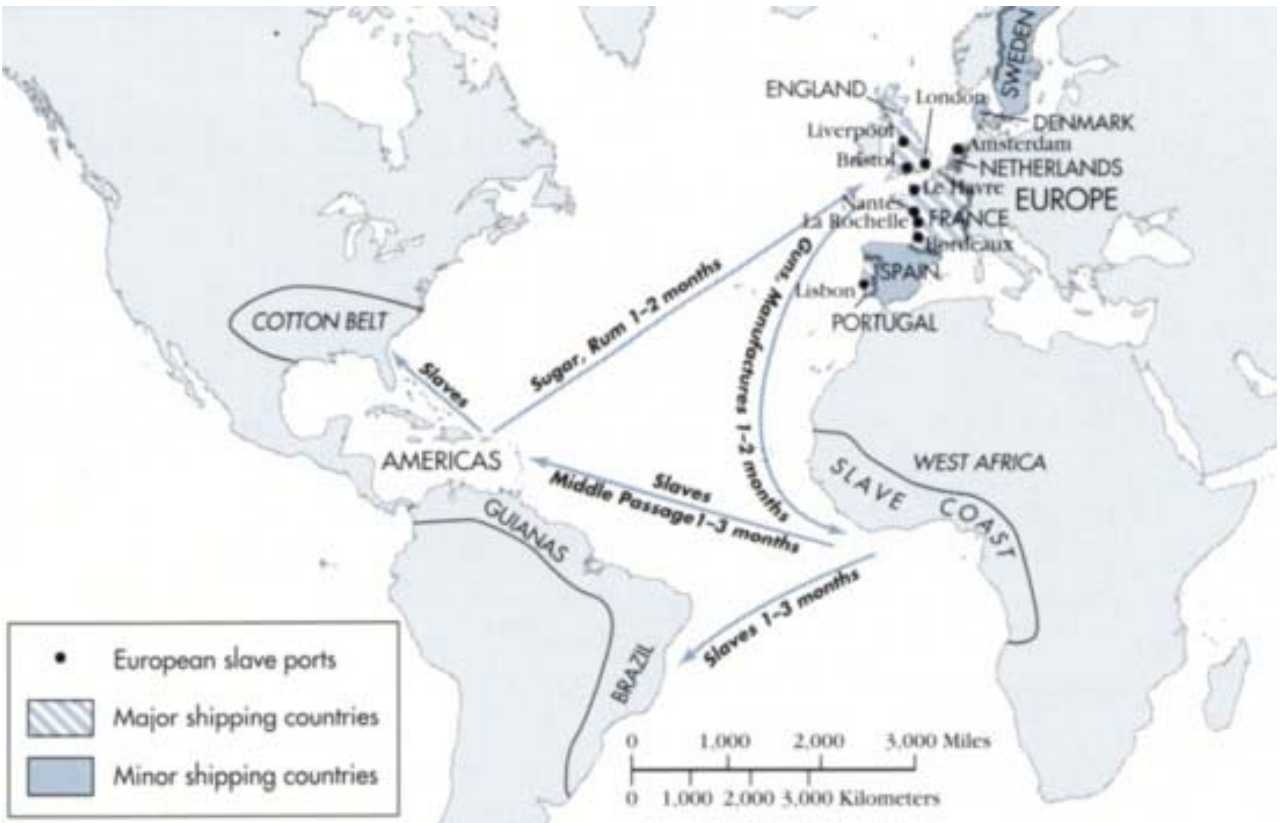
**The Story for Week Commencing the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 AT MANCHESTER**

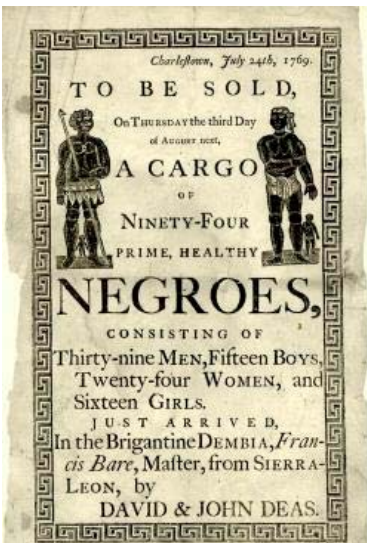
The transatlantic slave trade began in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, when the Portuguese began trading with Africans and used African slaves for domestic use within Portugal. With the 'discovery' of the New World in 1492 by Christopher Columbus, the Spanish and the Portuguese established colonies in Brazil and South America, and began to import slaves to work on the sugar plantations and in Gold mines. Other European nations, including Britain, started trading slaves during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century as more colonies were established within the Americas and the Caribbean. The demand for labour was high, and the driving force which led the Europeans to different parts of Africa in search for slaves.

The transatlantic slave trade consisted of a triangular voyage. Ships left the docks of London, Bristol and Liverpool bound for the different coastal regions of Africa. Then goods on board these slave ships included alcohol, gunpowder, firearms and textiles, which were used to barter for slaves. They were then packed tightly onto the ships for the next stage of the trade, the middle passage, the journey to the Americas.



*Slave Ship*





It has been estimated that between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century at least 10 million Africans were transported across the Atlantic. On arrival in the Americas and Caribbean, slaves who had survived the crossing were sold at auctions in exchange for sugar, cotton, rum, coffee, tobacco, tea and spices. These products were then exported back to England for Sale.

Britain soon became the leading nation involved in the slave trade. As the British Empire grew, the demand for slave labour increased. More slaves were needed to work on plantations to supply the increased demand of plantation produced products. Huge profits made from the trade helped to boost the British economy and lead to the industrial revolution. As the trade flourished the black population increased within England. By 1772 there were 10,000 black people living in England. In London black communities were established in Greenwich, St Giles, Westminster, Deptford and Woolwich. This was as a result of plantation owners and naval officers bringing slaves with them on their return to England to work as household servants.

Not all black people living in England were slaves: Ignatius Sancho (1729-1780) the first African prose writer, lived in Westminster, owned a corner shop, a composer of music and close friends to famous literary and artistic people.



Ignatius Sancho

Olaudah Equiano (1745-1797) a former slave became a political leader and a best selling author with his published autobiography: the interesting narrative of the life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African, which was a detailed account of his movement out of slavery. Together with another slave, Ottobah Cugoano, they set up a political movement called the sons of Africa. They campaigned against slavery. Cugano publicly demanded for the total abolition of the slave trade and freedom for all slaves.

Together with Granville Sharp, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce these and other Africans played a very important part in the abolition movement in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. These Africans alongside their English counterparts actively engaged in challenging the stereotype of the inferiority of black people.

After years of campaigning the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act was finally passed on March 25 1807. The act outlawed the slave trade within the British Empire and imposed a fine of 100.00 pounds sterling for every slave found aboard a British ship. This 1807 act was the first step towards the total abolition of African Slavery.



Olaudah Equiano



Granville Sharp