

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter November, 2019

Slavery-Britain's Shameful Past

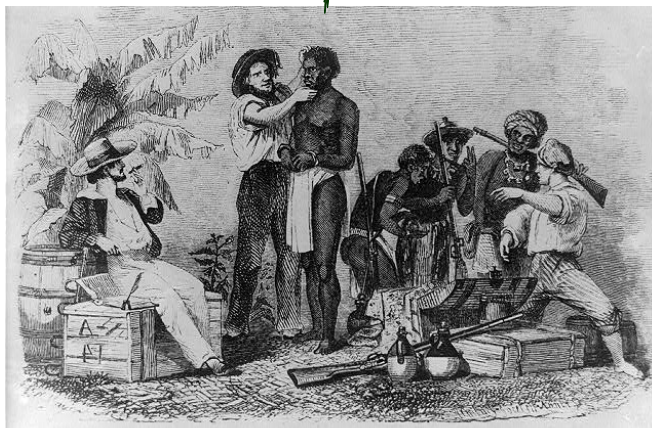
It is estimated that Britain transported 3.1 million Africans to the British colonies in the Caribbean, North and South America of which 2.7 arrived at their respective destinations. This happened between the 1600's and the early 1800's.

The slaves were transported by ship across the Atlantic ocean. The ships then brought back commodities to Europe, things like sugar, rum, cotton, tobacco and coffee. Cities such as Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow were heavily involved in this trade. The conditions on the ships were pretty squalid. Slaves were crammed together meaning that many did not survive the voyage.

It wasn't until 1807 that slavery was banned, a man called William Wilberforce being the influential voice in bringing about its demise. In 1834 all British owned slaves were freed by law.



Many stories have emerged about conditions which slaves were kept under, especially from Caribbean historians and as seen in the recent Hollywood film '12 years a Slave'. The places where slaves worked were called plantations. Plantation owners would often use cruel methods of punishing slaves who were deemed to be troublesome. The slitting of nostrils was one such method. Slaves were also isolated, imprisoned in tiny areas and made to wear restricting devices like manacles or special neck braces or face masks which were incredibly uncomfortable and degrading.



Perhaps '12 years a Slave' depicts the daily lives of slaves in the most vivid way. It is the true story of man who is returned to captivity from a free life. His sadistic owner treats the slaves as nothing more than animals, commodities whose only reason for being is to work themselves to exhaustion everyday to provide wealth to their owners.

The slave trade is surely one of western civilization's greatest shames. The wealth amassed as a result of the trade allowed for more comfort and you could argue that the Industrial Revolution and scientific development occurred as a result of this wealth, as those with money found time and the resources to pursue knowledge.

You can't erase the past but we should remember it from time to time. Certainly there are those that won't let us forget for good reason.

Article by Kevin

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Go here for information about the movie "12 Years a Slave"
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/12-Years-a-Slave>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: The thing I find most interesting about the rugby – yes, I'm also aware of the World Cup – is that half of the Japanese team were born outside of Japan, including NZ born captain Michael Leitch and, not surprisingly, coach Jamie Joseph. Thousands upon thousands of Japanese fans have been following and cheering the team on their epic journey in this WC. How many took notice, or even cared, about the team's makeup? Surely, this is another significant step towards "International Japan."

Junko Says: This year, the CGI remake of Disney's movie, "The Lion King," was released in July. The original animated movie was released in 1994 and even to this day, psychologists quote from this story to explain modern concepts in psychology. In the movie, the hero journeys upon the path of growing up to become a fine king. I'm thinking of watching both versions of this story again, the new 2019 one and the one from 1994.



Kevin Says: As I write Japan are still in the Rugby World Cup. By the time of reading, we will know who has won the tournament (I think). However, what I won't forget is Japan's performance against Ireland. This was a such of display of extreme determination from the kick off to the final whistle that my attention was held throughout. I think every true rugby fan will agree with that and you didn't need to know the rules of the game to have appreciated it. Well done Japan!

Darrin Says: What a game! The Japanese rugby team just showed the rest of the world, that the win against South Africa in the last World Cup was no fluke by beating Ireland, the current number two ranked team in the world. In my opinion they totally dominated the Irish and could have easily won by a lot more. Keep it up and they will be quarter finals contenders. Go Brave Blossoms!



Mandey dit: Ce mois-ci, on va pouvoir goûter au beaujolais nouveau. Chaque année, le troisième jeudi du mois de Novembre. On peut déguster ce merveilleux breuvage. Certain l'adorent et attendent sa sortie avec impatience et d'autres le détestent car c'est trop commercial. Toutefois, tout le monde est d'accord. C'est un vin convivial, que l'on boit avec ses amis et on s'amuse bien!! Une petite pensée pour Notre merveilleuse Catherine Deneuve. En effet, elle est actuellement à l'hôpital et les docteurs disent que c'est très sérieux. Catherine, nous pensons à toi.

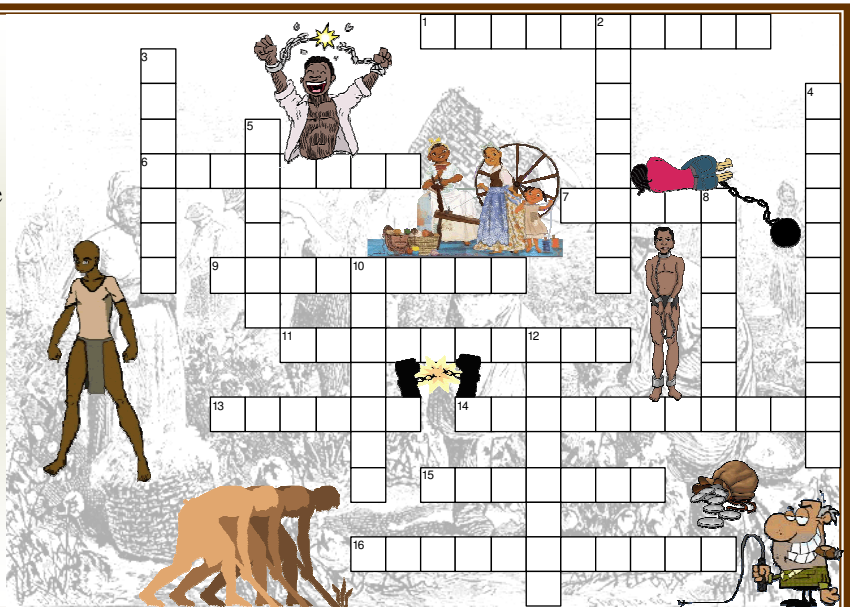
ACROSS

- 1 extreme loss of energy
- 6 similar to handcuffs
- 7 clear, bright colorful
- 9 harmful to mind or morals
- 11 where cash crops are grown on a large scale
- 13 the time for something to end
- 14 difficult to deal with
- 15 foul, unpleasant, offensive
- 16 power to effect events

DOWN

- 2 making a clear cut through something
- 3 crowded, packed to capacity
- 4 products bought and sold
- 5 outlawed, forbidden
- 8 shows or describes in a picture
- 10 a large number collected in one place
- 12 kept apart

([print version here](#))



This is for all those who think too much about details and can't see the "big picture" - and a tribute to all the dyslexics out there, also....

CAN YOU READ THIS?

Only 55 people out of 100 can. If you can read this, you have a strange mind, too.

In a study conducted by a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole. Amazing huh? Yeah and I always thought spelling was important!

The Aberdeen gig

If you can read this, your brain is 50% faster than those who can't

Here is another interesting observation of how the brain organizes information:

In an American school, an autistic second grader came up with this solution to a spelling test: The class was asked to "write the following words in alphabetical order:"

apple, pumpkin, log, river, fox, and pond.

Here are this child's answers on the right: →

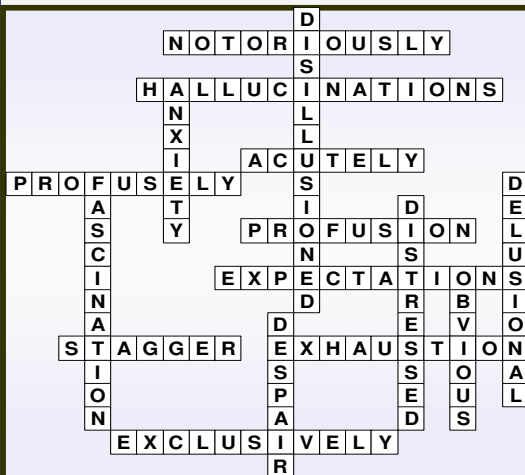
The child was awarded the only "A" in the class. It is often said that there is much wisdom in the minds of children, and much the adult world needs to learn from them, too.

Write the following words in alphabetical order
(the order they come in the alphabet)

BCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

~~apple~~ pumpkin log river fox pond

1. apple
2. ikmnpqu
3. log
4. river
5. fox
6. pond



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 2 well known for the wrong reasons
- 3 seeing illusions
- 5 extremely sharp or strongly felt
- 6 in excess or abundance
- 10 found everywhere in abundance
- 11 looking forward to something good
- 14 walk with great difficulty
- 15 extreme loss of energy
- 16 not shared by others

DOWN

- 1 lost false hopes, disappointed
- 4 extreme worry and nervousness
- 7 extremely interesting
- 8 a believing in the opposite to reality
- 9 anxious, troubled, greatly worried
- 12 easy to understand
- 13 feeling all hope is lost



Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.