

Key vocabulary glossary

abolish

To end or ban something.

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chattel

A word for slaves, which meant that they were other people’s property and could be treated in the same way as animals. The term comes from the word ‘cattle’.

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colonisation

The act of sending people to live in, govern, and control another country and its indigenous people.

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diaspora

The spreading of a group of people from their original homeland to other parts of the world.

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discrimination

Treating somebody unfairly based on their race, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age or any other way in which they are different.

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emancipation

To be set free from legal, social or political restrictions, such as slavery.

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enslavement

To have one’s freedom taken away and to be forced to work for no money.

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indigenous

To naturally exist in a country or area, rather than arriving from somewhere else.

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maafa

A Swahili word meaning ‘great catastrophe’ that is used to describe the ‘African Holocaust’ and the history and effects of the transatlantic slave trade.



rebellion

An act of resistance, usually violent, against the government, leader or ruler of a place, to fight for freedom from oppression or unfair treatment.

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resistance

To go against something, or to be part of a group who goes against something.

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slavery

The state of being a slave or the practice or system of owning slaves.

