

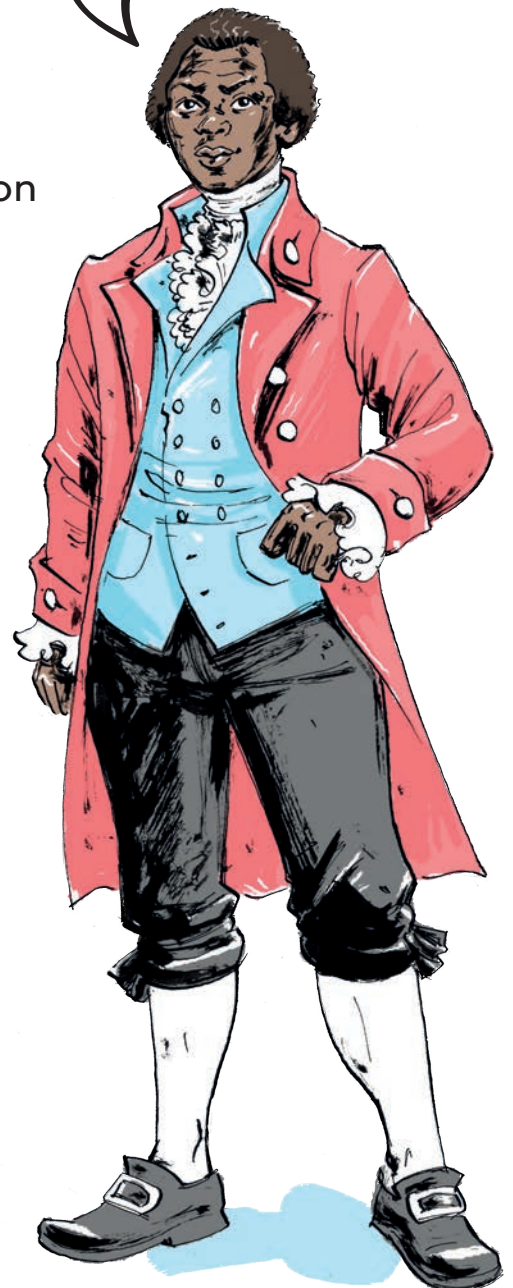
London, Sugar & Slavery

Gallery activity for KS2 school groups

“I’ll be your guide as you visit the London, Sugar & Slavery gallery today. I was born in Benin, Africa, but was forced to move to London when I was only 12 years old. I wrote a book about my life and fought against slavery all my life.

You might want to take turns in your group to read each part of my life story aloud.

Then, use the objects, text and images on display to talk together and discuss the questions.”



London, Sugar & Slavery

1. Africa



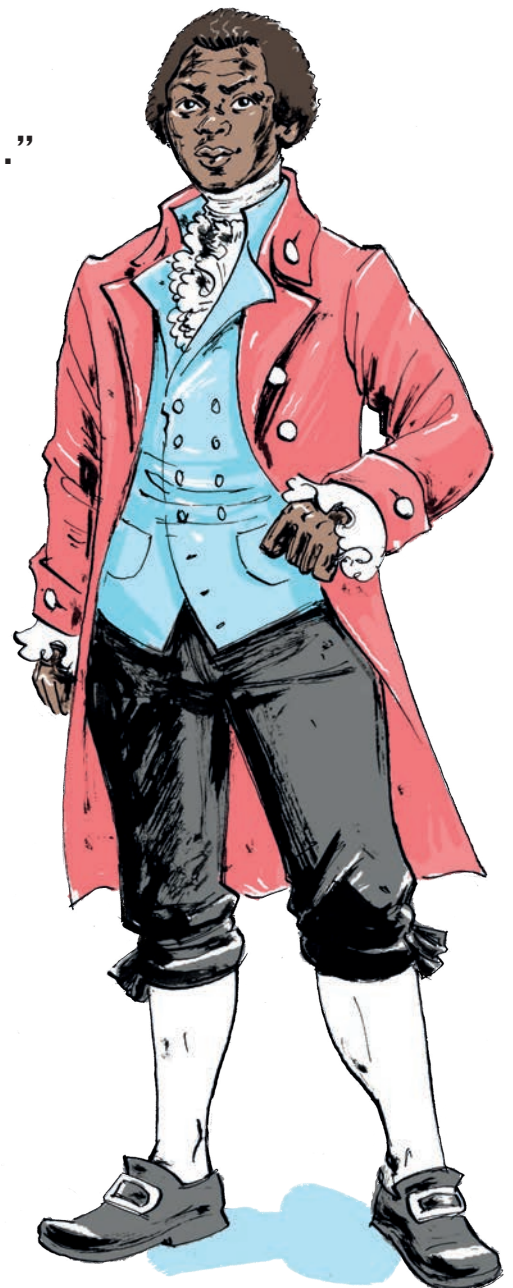
Walk into the first part of the gallery. Look for the section of wall that says 'Africa' on the right.

“I was born in the Kingdom of Benin, in 1745. The Kingdom prospered between the 1200s and 1800s in western Africa, in what is now Nigeria.

My people were dancers, musicians, poets and artists. We had an Oba – a king, who lived in a beautiful palace. Our land was rich and fruitful.”



Look at the maps and images on the wall. They were by Europeans, not Africans. Why do you think this is?



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2. Africans in London



Look for the portraits of Black Londoners on the wall.

“When I arrived in London in the spring of 1751, I was only about 12 years old! Everything I saw surprised me.

I learnt to read and write English in school. I loved playing near the steps by Westminster Bridge with the other boys.”



What would you ask the Black Londoners in these portraits?



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3. Sugar



Look for the display of cups, saucers and sugar tongs.

“Like many of my countrymen, I was kidnapped and sold, and taken across the sea to Barbados to labour on a sugar plantation. Plantations are large areas of farmland planted with crops like sugar, tobacco or coffee.

My new master had other plans for me though. He brought me to London.”



Do you think the people drinking coffee, tea and sugar from these cups knew about slavery?



Now look for the other display of cups, with images of an enslaved person on them.



What three words would you use to describe these cups?



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4. From abolition to emancipation


 Look for the display called ‘first hand testimonies’.

“After working on ships for many years, I returned to London where I wrote my autobiography. I became a spokesperson for London’s small Black community and spent the rest of my life campaigning against the evils of transatlantic slavery.

When I died in 1797, slavery and the trade in enslaved people still hadn’t been abolished.”

“In 1834 an act was finally passed outlawing the owning, buying and selling of humans as property throughout the British Empire.

The enslavers were given £20 million between them. People like me – people they had enslaved – weren’t given a penny!”

 What would you ask Olaudah Equiano if you could meet him in London today?

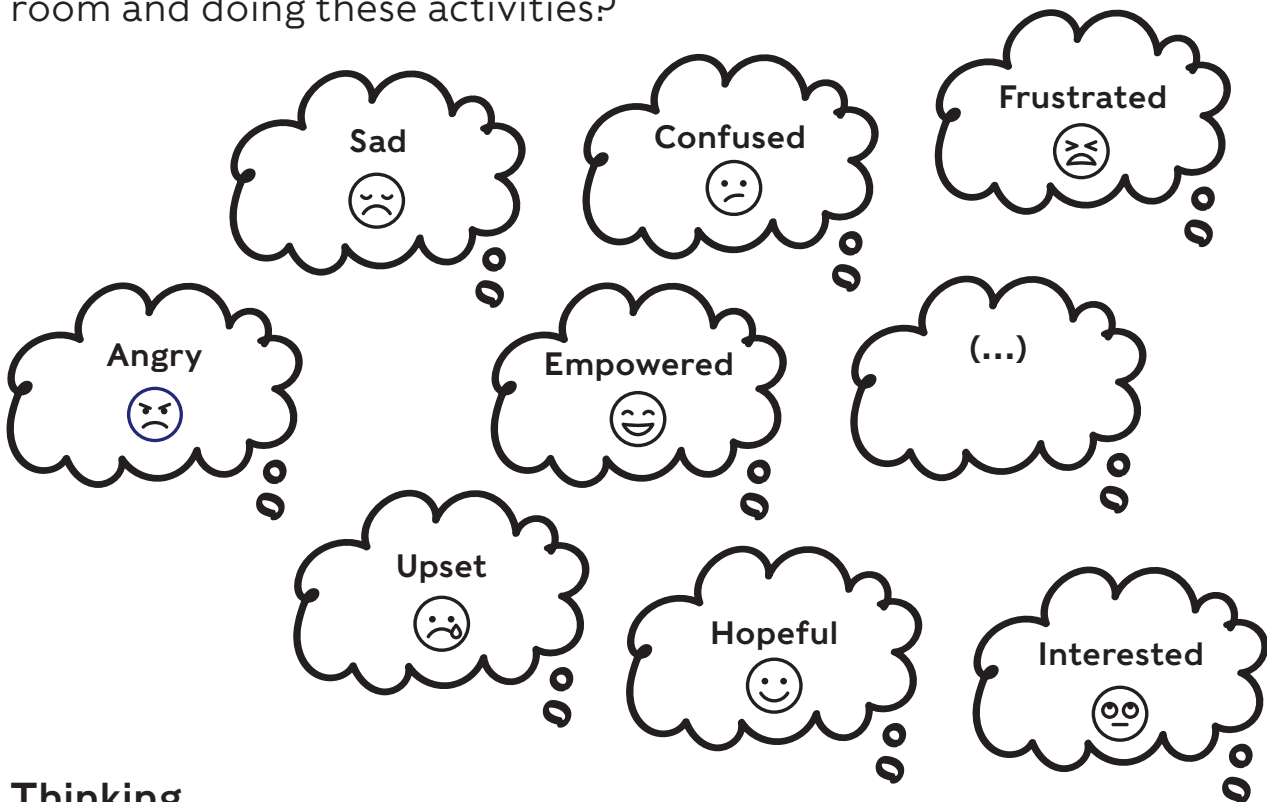


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5. Reflections

Feeling

Which word or words would you use to describe your feelings after looking at the displays in this room and doing these activities?



Thinking

There weren't any plantations with enslaved Africans in London, but London is connected to the trade in enslaved Africans in many ways.

From what you have seen and heard today, can you describe some of these connections?

I have learned...

I am surprised by...

I would like to find out more about...