**Knowledge Organiser – The Impact on Britain and the Caribbean**

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| **Main Questions** |
| **How did slavery impact on the Caribbean?** |
| The native Arawak people were decimated by European diseases, fled or were worked to death on the plantations. | The Caribbean economy became very fragile as it relied mainly on one crop. If the demand and price of sugar fell, it would have a disastrous impact on the whole economy. | Society in the Caribbean became deeply unequal. The small white planter population was fabulously wealthy, whilst the huge slave population had very little. |
| The Caribbean became a society of brutal laws and punishments as the plantation owners became terrified of potential slave revolts. | Huge areas of land were cleared to transform Caribbean islands into ‘garden-like’ land to grow as many cash crops, like sugar and tobacco, as possible.  | Infrastructure improved in the Caribbean due to the slave trade. Produce had to be moved and so transportation links improved as new roads and railways were built. |
| **Places**  |
| 1. | Jamaica – Britain’s most important sugar producing island.  |
| 2. | Bance Island – A slave fort off the coast of Africa which was owned by Richard Oswald. |
| 3. | Manchester – Britain’s main industrial manufacturing town, famous for its cotton mills. |
| 4. | West India Docks – Huge warehouses in London where goods from the Caribbean were unloaded. |
| 5. | Greenock – The centre of the sugar refining industry in Scotland. |
| **Individuals** |
| Peter Beckford | The largest slave owner in Jamaica. He owned 11 plantations. |
| Richard Oswald | Originally from Dunnet, Oswald made a fortune selling slaves.  |
| James Watt | The Scottish inventor of the steam-engine. His work was funded by investment from the slave trade. |
| Alexander Grant | A Scottish plantation owner, who later became MP for Inverness. |
| **Key vocabulary** |
| 1. Arawak
 | The native inhabitants of the Caribbean islands.  |
| 1. Smallpox
 | One of the diseases which the Europeans brought to the Caribbean. |
| 1. Planter
 | Someone who owned a plantation. |
| 1. Credit
 | Borrowed money which is repaid with interest. |
| 1. Refining
 | Purifying a substance |
| **Main Question** |
| **How did the slave trade impact on ordinary Britons?** |
| It provided a cheap supply of sugar, which changed British diets. Before the slave trade, sugar had been hugely expensive and only eaten by the upper-classes. Coffee and tea became more popular. | The slave trade provided thousands of jobs in a wide variety of areas, including shipbuilding, sailing, rope making, iron work etc.  | The Caribbean offered a place where great fortunes could be made by ambitious Britons. Planters, overseers, surgeons and merchants were all needed to make sure the trade ran smoothly. |
| **How did the slave trade impact on Britain’s economy?** |
| Slave traders relied on loans and credit because they would not make a profit until they had sold their Caribbean goods back in Britain. Banks provided this credit and so made money from the interest.  | Insurance was a necessary expense. Ships and their cargoes were insured against loss, which protected the investments of the wealthy traders. This lead to the insurance industry growing in London. | The arms industry in Birmingham flourished. This was due to the demand for weapons to be traded for slaves in Africa. |
| The cotton industry in Manchester flourished. This was because brightly coloured cloth was in great demand in Africa, where it was traded for slaves.  | Money made in the Caribbean was invested into the British economy. For example, the Great Western Railway was partially funded by investors who had made their fortune in the slave trade.  | The sugar refining industry developed as brown sugar from the Caribbean was turned into white sugar. One of the key centres of this industry was Greenock. |
| **Companies** |
| Lloyd’s | Insurance and banking company, based in London, which made a fortune insuring the slave trade. |
| Barings Bank | A bank which made its fortune in financing the slave trade. |
| Bank of England | The country’s main bank had provided credit to slave traders. |
| **How did the slave trade impact on Britain’s politics and society?** |
| Council buildings were often funded by slave profits such as Liverpool City Hall and the current Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow. | Attitudes towards Africans became extremely negative because of the slave trade. They were regarded as sub-human because it helped to justify the slave trade. | Many MPs owed their fortunes to the slave trade, as did mayors of port cities like Liverpool. Therefore, politics became dominated by the slave trade.  |

**Self-Testing**

* The most effective way to learn this information is to self-test using the following questions to help.
1. **Who were the native inhabitants of the Caribbean?**
2. **What happened to the native inhabitants of the Caribbean?**
3. **Why did the slave trade make the Caribbean economy very fragile?**
4. **In what way did the slave trade benefit the Caribbean?**
5. **Give two examples of the negative impact of the slave trade on the Caribbean.**
6. **Give an example of a Briton who benefited from the slave trade.**
7. **Why was Manchester able to benefit from the slave trade?**
8. **Where was the main centre for sugar refining in Scotland?**
9. **Why was Birmingham able to benefit from the slave trade?**
10. **In which part of London was produce from the Caribbean unloaded?**
11. **Give two examples of jobs that the slave trade created in Britain.**
12. **Give two examples of jobs that the slave trade created for Britons in the Caribbean.**
13. **How did the slave trade impact on British diets?**
14. **What does ‘credit’ mean?**
15. **Give an example of a disease that was brought by Europeans to the Caribbean.**
16. **Why did the slave trade benefit the banking industry in Britain?**
17. **Give an example of a British bank that profited from the slave trade.**
18. **Why did the insurance industry grow because of the slave trade?**
19. **Give an example of an insurance company that profited from the slave trade.**
20. **How did the slave trade impact on British attitudes towards Africans?**
21. **Give two examples of how money made in the Caribbean was invested in Britain.**
22. **How did the slave trade impact on British politics?**