1562	1730
Sir John Hawkins becomes the first English slave trader. He takes 300 Africans and trades them with the Spanish and Portuguese for sugar, spices and pearls.	Britain becomes the largest slave trading country in the world.
1787	1833
The society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade is established.	The Abolition of Slavery Act is passed. It comes into force in 1834. To begin with, all children under the age of six are freed but other enslaved people are forced to continue to work for their masters.
1794	1672
France abolishes slavery and frees all enslaved people in its colonies. Laws are passed by the US to stop American ships being used in the slave trade.	The Royal African Company is formed to regulate the English slave trade. By now, over 5000 slaves are being transported each year.
1833	1790
On the 26th July a bill is passed to free enslaved people.	William Wilberforce presents the first abolition bill to the House of Commons, although it does not pass.
1823	1792
Anti-Slavery Committee is formed in London to campaign for the total abolition of slavery	House of Commons votes in favour of the abolition of the slave trade, but the bill is rejected by the house of Lords.
1807	1699
The Transatlantic Slave Trade is abolished by the British Parliament and the US Congress	By this time 80% of the Caribbean's population are slaves from Africa.