The Danish slave trade

INSTRUCTOR GUIDE:
PRIMARY AND LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL

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ABOUT TIKI-TOKI

Tiki-Toki is an interactive timeline tool. The tool is especially good at providing a visual historic overview. Tiki-Toki is an IT-based instructional supplement that simultaneously facilitates students’ subject knowledge, source analysis and digital competencies.

ABOUT “THE DANISH SLAVE TRADE”

The Danish National Archives' sequence on "The Danish slave trade" commemorates an historic event with decisive consequences. Trafficking in humans has most certainly always taken place, but the European slave trade in the 1600s and 1700s was critically important for Europeans' self-image as well as the self-image (then and now) of the people who were enslaved during the period. This academic justification makes the item relevant even today.

In working with the Danish National Archives' sequence "The Danish slave trade", students get an opportunity to work on various types of sources, for example, primary or secondary sources, which by virtue of personal stories provide a micro perspective. In addition, students are also introduced to official sources that provide an opportunity to see history in a macro perspective.

The original sources deal in part with the purchase and transportation of slaves from Africa to the West Indies and in part with the debate on the slave trade and the Danish justifications for its abolition – as well as the arguments for the continued use of slaves on the islands. Even though the Danish king prohibited the slave trade on the islands in 1792, the prohibition did not take effect until 1803. However, the use of slaves continued for many years, as slaves were needed on the plantations. Slavery ended in 1848.
The texts have been authored by Senior Research Archivist Erik Gøbel at the Danish National Archives.

Read more about “The Danish slave trade” here on virgin-islands-history.org/en/