



Wilberforce
2007 | Hull

A Timeline to the Abolition of the Slave Trade

- 1562 First English slaving expedition by Sir John Hawkins.
- 1619 First recorded cargo of Africans landed in Virginia.
- 1631 Charles I grants monopoly on Guinea trade to London merchants.
- 1672 Royal Africa Company granted charter to carry Africans to the America.
- 1688 1st Abolitionist movement formed by Pennsylvanian Quakers.
- 1759 Wilberforce born in Hull.
- 1765 Granville Sharp campaigns to abolish slavery in UK.
- 1772 Slavery outlawed in England.
- 1776 David Hartley MP moves a resolution against the slave trade. Adam Smith showed slavery was uneconomic. Wilberforce meets and befriends William Pitt.
- 1780 Wilberforce elected from Hull to Parliament aged 21 years.
- 1786 Thomas Clarkson joins the abolitionist movement. Wilberforce converts to Christianity and commits to the abolitionist cause.
- 1787 Society for the Abolition of the Slave trade (Wilberforce, Clarkson, Sharp and Wedgwood). Wilberforce falls seriously ill and begs Pitt to take the cause on.
- 1788 Pitts sets up a Privy Council investigation.
- 1789 Wilberforce's great speech – destroyed his opponent's arguments. The case for abolition is made.
- 1791 Abolition vote loses by 163 to 88.
- 1793 Louis XVI executed - war with France.
- 1796 Abolition vote loses by 4 votes
- 1805 Abolition bill passes Commons but loses in the Lords.
- 1807 UK slave trade abolished by 283 to 16 votes.
One million people living in slavery.



Wilberforce
2007 | Hull

- 1808 US abolishes the slave trade.
- 1823 Anti-Slavery Society formed.
- 1833 Abolition of slavery in the British Empire.
Wilberforce dies and is buried at Westminster Abbey.
- 1848 Emancipation by the French.
- 1865 Emancipation in the USA
- 1888 Emancipation in Brazil.