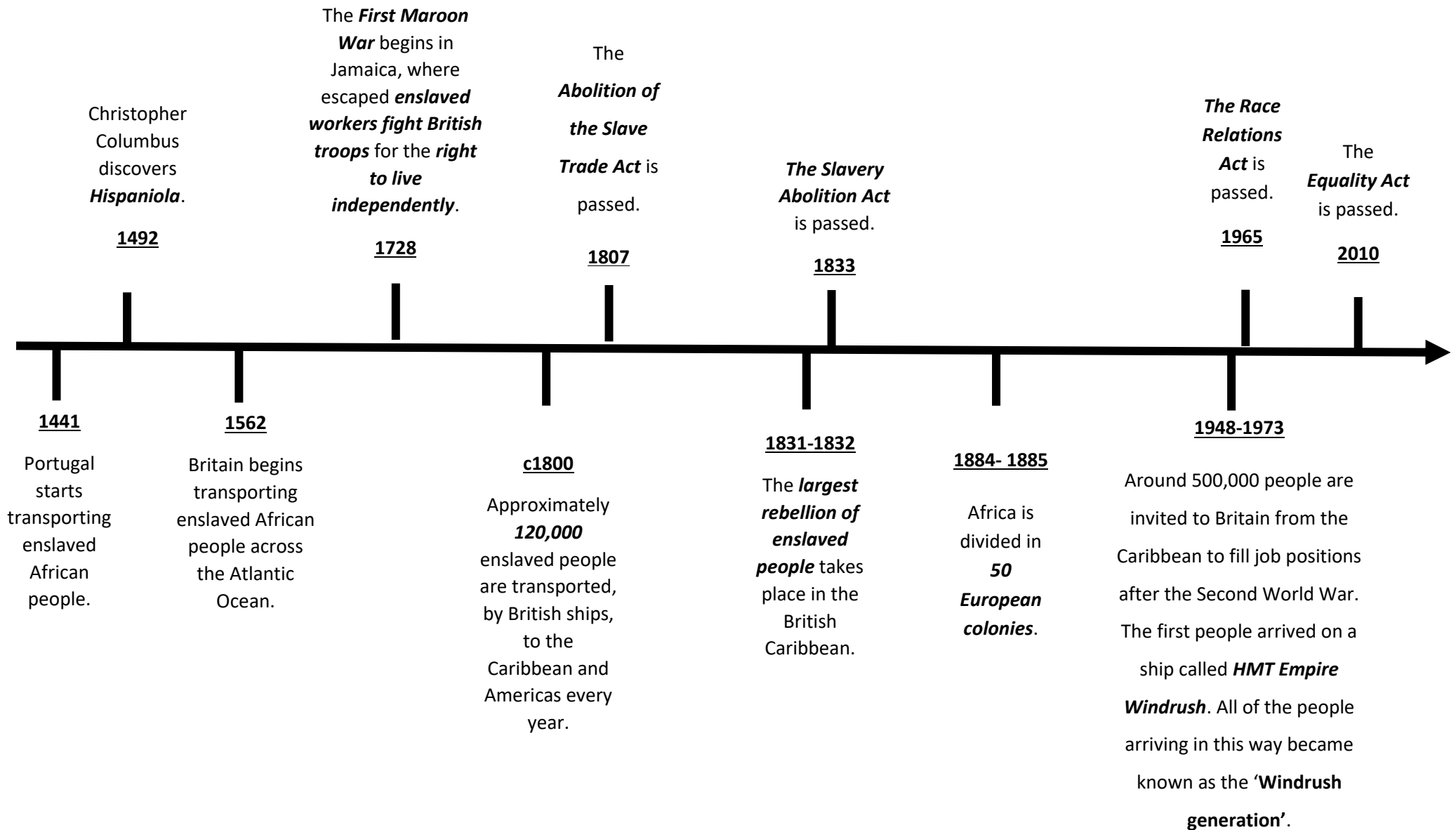


Maafa timeline





Africa is the world's second largest continent, and is made up of 54 different countries. Today, more than one billion people live in Africa, including over 3000 different indigenous groups. Africa has a vast range of habitats and landscapes including rural villages, swamps and rainforests.

Maafa

Ancient kingdoms

Humans have lived in Africa for millions of years. Great civilisations developed in every part of Africa, including the Kingdom of Benin. The kingdom of Benin gained wealth and power by trading natural resources, such as gold and ivory. The guild of brass casters created impressive bronze plaques for the *oba*, or king, called the 'Benin Bronzes'.



Bronze plaque

Beginning of the European slave trade

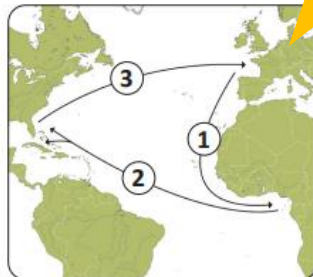
From 1441 onwards, enslaved African people were transported to **Portugal** and were bought, sold and treated like cattle. This form of enslavement became known as chattel slavery.

In 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered Hispaniola, a Caribbean island, which he claimed for **Spain**. He took sugar cane to the Caribbean to create sugar plantations. The indigenous people were enslaved to work on them. African people were then targeted for enslavement.

Britain first transported enslaved African people in 1562, when Elizabeth I, gave permission to a naval commander, to do so. By 1650, Britain has seized several thousand enslaved African people across the Atlantic Ocean each year. By the early 1800s, this was 120,000 each year. In total, **Britain transported more** enslaved African people than any other European country.

Triangular slave trade

The triangular slave trade was a very profitable system of enslavement, developed to provide labour for plantations in the Americas. It involved three journeys:



1 The first journey

Goods, including metal and guns, were transported to the west coast of Africa.

2 The second journey

Enslaved African people were transported to the Caribbean and the Americas. This journey was also known as the middle passage.

3 The third journey

Goods produced on the plantations were transported back to Europe.

Vocabulary

Abolitionist	A person who fights to ban something such as slavery.
Auction	A public sale, where goods are sold to the person who bids the most money.
Chattel slavery	A form of enslavement, where people are kept as another person's property and are treated very badly.
Colonisation	The act of sending people to live in, govern and control another country and its indigenous people, forming a colony.
Emancipation	To be set free from legal, social or political restrictions, such as slavery.
Enslavement	To have one's freedom taken away to be forced to work for no money.
Indigenous	To naturally exist in a country or area, rather than arriving from somewhere else.
Maafa	A Swahili word meaning ' great catastrophe '. The name Maafa is used to describe the African Holocaust and the history and effects of the transatlantic slave trade.
Plantation	A large estate where crops, such as sugar cane or tobacco, are grown.
Trading forts	A place designed for the storage, buying and selling of goods.
West Indies	A group of islands surrounded by the North Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. More commonly known as the Caribbean.