

STUDY GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS

Welcome to Amazing Grace

Welcome to the Amazing Grace study guide. The musical, Amazing Grace, tells the unknown story behind the most famous song in history. The purpose of this guide is to help your students better understand the time period in which Amazing Grace is set, that of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Abolitionism. We hope Amazing Grace can be a great teaching tool by setting the scene and bringing to life the hardships and tribulations of this time period.

In this guide you will find background material about the making of the musical, theater etiquette, a history of the song, a synopsis of the story, character backgrounds, historical material to aid in teaching about slavery and abolitionism, resources for deeper study, information about modern day slavery, and how to get involved.

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Theater Etiquette

Welcome to the theater! This is a magical place where stories come alive before your eyes.

You will be whisked away only to return once the story has come to an end. We invite you to turn off your rational brain to be seduced by the sights and sounds of stage before you. To fully enjoy this experience, allow the music from the Orchestra to tickle your ears and affect your heart beat. As the lights peel across the stage to create the mood, allow your mood to follow. The curtain rises and the scene is set. You are now a fly on the wall along for the ride. Try to remain in this state of childlike wonder. The magic of the theater has now taken over and you are at its whim. Be careful...who knows where she'll take you!

It is important to understand that live theater is not like watching a movie or tv. What is happening on stage, while rehearsed, is different every night. The spontaneity of the theater is what makes it so engaging to watch. Everything is happening in the moment and no two shows are identical. As a part of the audience, you are an important character in the show. You create the energy in the room for the actors to feed from. In order to create a ripe setting for the actors to live and for you to experience the magic of live theater, we all must follow some simple etiquette rules:

- **Arrive On Time.** If you are late you run the risk of disturbing a scene which has already started.
- **Turn Off Cell Phones and other noisy electronics.** Unwrap Candies. Noises from the audience can distract the actors and other audience members.
- **Do Not send Text Messages during the show.**
- **Do Not take Pictures during the performance.** The flash and noise is a distraction.
- **Stay Seated during the performance.** You can use the restroom and stretch your legs during intermission.
- **Do Not have side conversations during the performance.**

Find your seat and let the play begin!



the Musical is Born

A Note From the Director

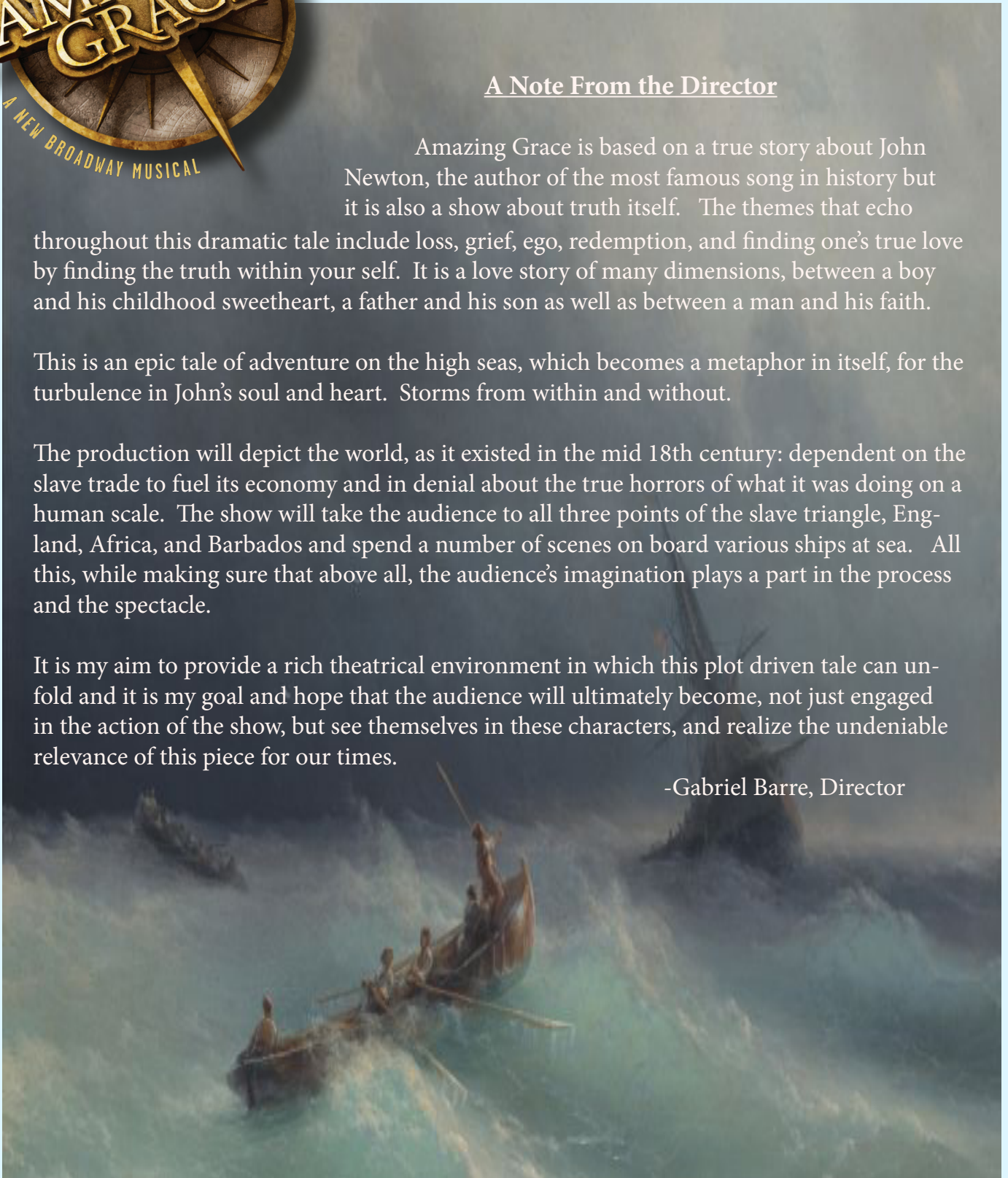
Amazing Grace is based on a true story about John Newton, the author of the most famous song in history but it is also a show about truth itself. The themes that echo throughout this dramatic tale include loss, grief, ego, redemption, and finding one's true love by finding the truth within your self. It is a love story of many dimensions, between a boy and his childhood sweetheart, a father and his son as well as between a man and his faith.

This is an epic tale of adventure on the high seas, which becomes a metaphor in itself, for the turbulence in John's soul and heart. Storms from within and without.

The production will depict the world, as it existed in the mid 18th century: dependent on the slave trade to fuel its economy and in denial about the true horrors of what it was doing on a human scale. The show will take the audience to all three points of the slave triangle, England, Africa, and Barbados and spend a number of scenes on board various ships at sea. All this, while making sure that above all, the audience's imagination plays a part in the process and the spectacle.

It is my aim to provide a rich theatrical environment in which this plot driven tale can unfold and it is my goal and hope that the audience will ultimately become, not just engaged in the action of the show, but see themselves in these characters, and realize the undeniable relevance of this piece for our times.

-Gabriel Barre, Director



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

“Amazing Grace”, the world’s most recognizable hymn, was written by ruthless slave trader turned abolitionist, John Newton. The hymn tells the story of a man suffering under the weight of his own cruelty who has a dramatic conversion where upon his eyes are opened to his own decrepit ways and to the grace and forgiveness that washed it all away.

The verses were initially written in 1772 and were meant to be sung with any number of popular hymn tunes of the day. It wasn’t until 1835 in South Carolina that William Walker brought the tune “New Britain” to the words. This tune was among the many corporate tunes of the day but is now famously married to the words of “Amazing Grace”.

“Amazing Grace” was made popular in America during the Second Great Awakening, a time of increased religious fervor in the country. The hymn was referenced in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel Uncle Tom’s Cabin, and was embraced by abolitionist forces. During the Civil War, the hymn inspired hope and revived suffering American spirits. A similar resurgence of the song came during the Vietnam war. It has appeared on over 1,100 albums. It’s continual popularity is attributed to it’s power to transform and transcend; it is a hymn for every man.

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*T’was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
‘Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.*

by John Newton





The Spark

I have a habit of wandering the history section of libraries and book stores looking for interesting stories. One day I pulled a book off the shelf at random. The binding said “John Newton, His Autobiography.” Who was John Newton? I had no clue. But I had time to kill and so I sat and read.

What unfolded before me was an epic story of love and loss, of harrowing storms and battles and the desperate struggle for the conscience of an entire country. The most remarkable thing about this man: He had written the lyrics to the most loved song of the last 300 years, Amazing Grace. I couldn’t believe it, why hadn’t I heard of this guy? Then it hit me all at once. This could be a musical. A huge musical like Les Miz or Phantom. I could almost hear it.

I went to my wife and laid out this crazy vision, I would write an epic musical based on the life of John Newton. The only problem was I didn’t know how to write a musical. She looked into my eyes and said that she believed I could do it. This was an important step because my wife is my best friend and any crazy adventure I go on she comes along to.

We set off. I left my job as a policeman and youth education director and devoted myself to learning how to write a musical. I had some experience in music composition but for the most part this was a whole new craft. I didn’t have training but what I did have was a story I felt needed to be told. And when you feel really inspired by something it’s hard to give up. Looking back on it the fact that I had no expertise in this field gave me a lot of freedom to create what I feel is a new kind of musical.

I wrote music I loved, inspired by Leonard Bernstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber, John Williams, Hans Zimmer. As for the book, I simply went back to the epic stories I loved as a kid: the films of George Lucas, Steven Spielberg and later Ron Howard. I grew up in the golden age of films that had it all: romance, humor, adventure, and pathos. So I said “why not put this all in a musical?”

Some time later I was connected with a producer, Carolyn Rossi Copeland, and the vision of seeing this musical on stage became more of a reality. We brought on some of the outstanding people of the theatre industry to help bring this production to the place it is today. For years my mentor and co-author Arthur Giron and I refined the story readying it for the stage while keeping those original story elements and songs that I loved.

The most remarkable thing for me is that the vision I had in that library is something that has fired the imaginations of people like Gabe Barre, Chris Gattelli, Eugene Lee, Ken Billington, and Toni-Leslie James, all people at the top of their profession. We have some of the theatre’s most incredible actors of this century on-stage living out this story, bringing their own passion and history to everything. It all started with the spark of an idea and the faith to follow it through.

- Chris Smith, Author

...Which becomes the Flame

The Creative Team

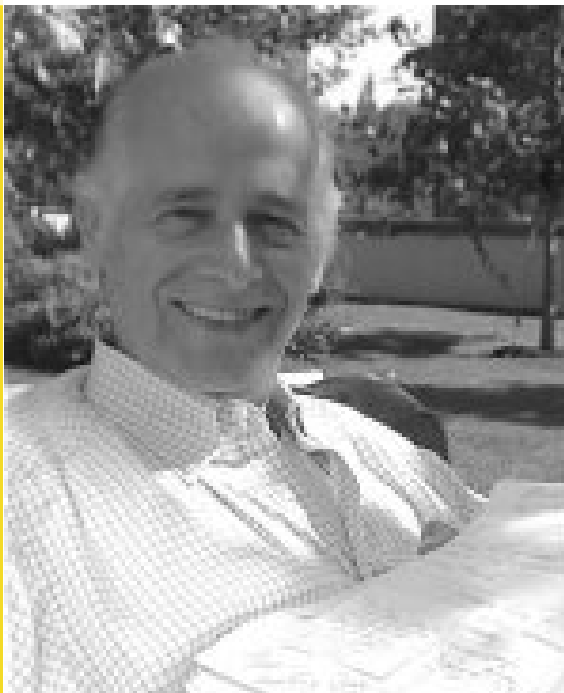


Chris Smith- Book, Music, Lyrics

As the author my role was to take the spark of an idea that I had and set it to paper creating a compelling story and the moving music to accompany it. The theatre has a rich tradition of using history as a jumping-off point to tell larger stories. From Shakespeare's "Henry V" to Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Evita", liberties have always been taken to adapt history and make the past vivid and relevant. In writing the Amazing Grace musical we have endeavored not only tell the story of John Newton but also illuminate the struggles of ordinary men and women who risked everything to end slavery in Britain.

Gabriel Barre- Director

As director, my most important job, with my producers, is to select a first class creative team. Together we are all working to create a unique theatrical and visual vocabulary for this show. I am also leading the decisions in the casting process assembling a group of terrific actors to breathe life into the show as well as bring their lives to it. We are casting actors with a passion for this story, commitment to the work, and intelligence to contribute to the process. I often think of my primary job as creating an atmosphere where each member of the team can become an important part of the show's creation. I try to empower and inspire them to contribute their very best and create something far greater than the sum of us all.



Arthur Giron- Book

Producer Carolyn Rossi Copeland, who knows a thing or two about collaboration, brought me together with Christopher Smith to develop the script whose structure would be solid enough to sustain the mighty subject and score of "Amazing Grace". This has meant that Chris and I have maintained a close-quarters collaboration for a few years. I've seen his children grow. After working in his home in Pennsylvania, learned from Chris that everyone in the family was waiting for their dog Kyra to give her approval of me, since she is known to have impeccable judgment of people. I passed the Kyra test. And the wife, Alana, test and the offspring test.

I mention all this because the human factor in a creative relationship is essential. Everyone is talented. But, not everyone has the character and the moral fortitude to endure the normal hardships all theater artists encounter every day. Thus, the collaboration must include the director, the producer, the designers, the actors. The show is built by a team!



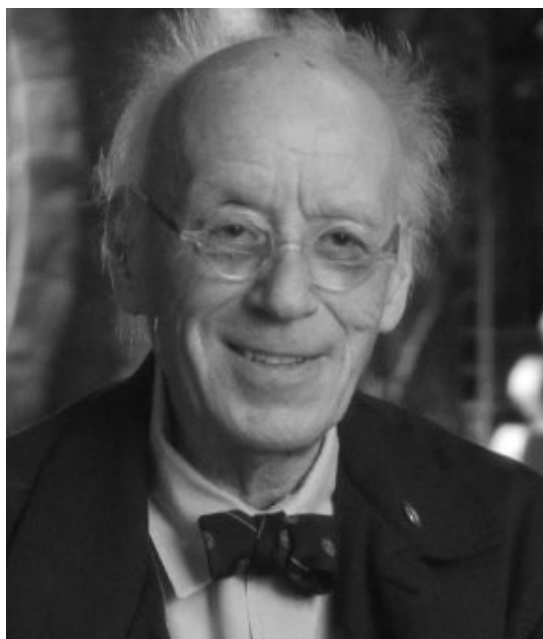
Toni-Leslie James- Costumes



Chris Gattelli- Choreographer



Eugene Lee- Set Designer



Setting the Scene

Prologue

It is 1741. Britain sits atop an international empire of slavery. The wealth from this has made the nation the most potent economic and military force in the world, at the expense of almost any sense of humanity and responsibility. The Royal Africa Company controls a vast fleet of slave ships which travel the African coast, abducting villagers or trading with local tribal leaders, who offer up their enemies as slaves. Britain's eternal foe, France, is prepared to go to war in order to wrest this commerce away from them. Within Britain's empire, several slave uprisings have occurred in the past two years, both in the Caribbean and the Carolinas. Waves of fear now permeate all classes of society. In the colony of New York, rumors of an abolitionist plot lead by a disguised priest caused a panic which saw nine slaves burned at the stake and four white colonists executed. It is now just five months later and rumors of an abolitionist underground in the strategically important port of Chatham, England have surfaced. The government must root out any dissent, regardless of the cost.

Get to Know the Characters

JOHN NEWTON: Roguishly attractive, yet exuding an inner sadness, John is a musical and lyrical genius of the first order. After the loss of his mother, he has turned his back on his creative calling, and dreams of adventure and profit on the high seas. He is smitten with his best childhood friend Mary and longs for a relationship

MARY CATLETT: Strong of character and inquisitive, Mary possesses a noble and understated beauty. She holds deep convictions about God which cause her to be introspective. She loves John both as a man and as a friend and longs for him to find the peace he knew before his mother's death.

CAPTAIN NEWTON: John's father, head of the Royal Africa Company, a successful slave-trading empire. Disciplined, cool and purpose-driven, he dreams that his son will become educated and perhaps a member of the British

NANNA (KATUMAH): The nurturing and protective house servant of the Catletts. She was sold into captivity as a young woman. She is pragmatic, deeply spiritual and loves Mary like her own daughter. Nanna is a fictional character. It is through her that the audience gets their first glimpse of what Africans actually experienced when they were abducted from their countries. In our story this knowledge is key to Mary Catlett's decision to join in the movement to end slavery.

THOMAS (PAKUTEH): Thomas has been the house slave of the Newton family since John's boyhood. After his mother's death, Thomas effectively raised John between his stints at boarding school. After years of bitterness, Thomas has found peace in forgiving his captors and in raising John. He is deep, wise and self-controlled. Thomas is loosely modeled on Olaudah Equiano, who was enslaved at an early age and later gained his freedom. He became instrumental in the abolition movement. Thomas personifies forgiveness, making it real and accessible to the audience.

ROBERT HAWEIS: Sharp-witted and work oriented, Hawies attended boarding school with John where he acted as a brake on John's freewheeling exploits. He now works for Captain Newton on the slave ship Greyhound.

*John Newton
Overture 1, 2*

Costume Design by Toni-Leslie James Illustrations by Gloria Young Kim

Male African Warriors
Costume Design by Toni-Leslie James Illustrations by Gloria Young Kim

MAJOR ARCHIBALD GRAY: Gray is fastidious, self-assured and confident to the point of narcissism. His Royal relatives have assured him promotion within the army and he is now a “fixer” of thorny problems such as the rising tide of abolitionism. Major Gray embodies the old imperial stoical attitudes of Georgian England.

PRINCESS PEYAI: The exotic African princess of the Sherbro tribe. Through an alliance with French slave-traders, she sells her enemies and those who displease her into bondage. Peyai is ambitious, seductive and ruthless. Princess Peyai (Pronounced “Pee-Eye”) was a historical person. She was involved in the selling of her own people and she did indeed treat John as a slave, nearly killing him from starvation.

YEMA: Yema is Nanna’s daughter, now a domestic slave to Princess Peyai in Africa. She is compassionate but deeply wounded by the sale of her

MR. EINHORN: An itinerant Rabbi of German extraction he serves the small Jewish community in Chatham. Patient, far-sighted, and prudent, he is a calming influence within the underground abolitionist movement. Rabbi Einhorn was a historical person but he did not live at the same time as John Newton. The story of Rabbi Einhorn’s work to end slavery occurred in the 1800’s in America.

MR. QUIGLEY: A founding member of the abolitionist movement in Chatham, Quigley is intelligent, skeptical and secretive both by

MR. TYLER: An emancipated African slave he is a secret firebrand for the liberation of his people. He is imposing and single minded. Mr. Tyler personifies former slaves willing to do almost anything to free their brethren and so on.

MR. WHITLEY: Whitley is Mary’s vocal tutor and conductor of both the church choir and town orchestra. He is portly, nervous and eager to have his protégé rise

MRS. CATLETT: Mary’s controlling mother. Stolid and traditional, she seeks to preserve the status quo and keep Mary within society’s expectations.

MONSIEUR CLOW: Advisor and ally of Princess Peyai. Clow is nationalistic and pragmatic. He manages the Peyai through flattery and motivates her with

BRIGGS: First Mate of the HMS Harwich. An acquaintance of Major Gray. Ruthless and conniving he did not get where he is by making friends.

FREDERICK, PRINCE OF WALES: Heir to the throne of Great Britain, Frederick is an aberration in the royal family because he is reform-minded and seeks a Britain less beholden to the landed and merchant classes. Intelligent and insightful, his wit can turn acerbic if he is provoked.



John Newton

Biography

John Newton was born in Wapping, London, in 1725, the son of John Newton Sr., a shipmaster in the Mediterranean service, and Elizabeth, a sweet and loving mother. Elizabeth sought to impart on young John all her wisdom, love for music, and reverence for God. Elizabeth died 2 weeks before John turned 7 years old. After her death John and his father moved to Aveley, the town of his father's new wife.

"My father was a very sensible, and a moral man, as the world rates morality; but neither he, nor my step-mother, was under the impressions of religion: I was, therefore, much left to myself, to mingle with idle and wicked boys; and soon learnt their ways"

John spent 2 years at boarding school in Essex. With his mother dead, John's already strained relationship with his father became more apparent. John describes the impact his father and Schoolmaster had on his adolescence :

"Though my father left me much to run about the streets, yet, when under his eye, he kept me at a great distance. I am persuaded he loved me, but he seemed not willing that I should know it. I was with him in a state of fear and bondage. His sternness, together with the severity of my schoolmaster, broke and overawed my spirit, and almost made me a dolt; so that part of the two years I was at school, instead of making a progress, I nearly forgot all that my good mother had taught me."

At age 11 John was taken to sea with his father for the first time. He then completed 6 voyages before his father retired in 1742. John was left to work in Spain for a few months with Captian Newton's friend. His adolescent aggressiveness and rebellious spirit soon lost him the job.

"With him I might have done well, if I had behaved well: By this time, my sinful propensities had gathered strength by habit: I was very wicked, and therefore very foolish; and, being my own enemy, I seemed determined that nobody should be my friend."

Upon losing the job and returning to England, John's father then organized for Newton to work as a Slave Master on a sugar plantation in Jamaica. Before leaving he made a trip to visit the Catlett family, friends of his mother. There he met 14 year old Mary Catlett. John was immediately smitten with her. So much so that he extended his visit at her home and purposefully missed the departure for Jamaica. His father was incensed.

But Newton was infatuated. He writes:

“My regard for her was always the same; and I may, perhaps, venture to say, that none of the scenes of misery and wickedness I afterwards experienced ever banished her a single hour together from my waking thoughts for the seven years following.”

On his way home from the Catlett's Newton was **impressed** into naval service by the Royal Navy. He became a midshipman aboard the HMS Harwich. It was a very undesirable position for the conditions and treatment of Naval sailors bordered on inhumane. Despite Newton's objection and plea for help, Newton's father, irritated by his son's lack of discipline and respect for authority, did not intervene to get him out of this mess. Captain Newton thought this experience would finally teach John the value of hard work. Captain Newton did however request his son be promoted in rank to Midshipman.

At sea John became discontent and in his desperation, deserted. He was recaptured within days and held aboard the Harwich as a felon awaiting punishment. He was handcuffed and held below deck. He received 8 dozen lashes in front of the crew of 350. He was reduced to a common seaman and was shunned. In reaction, Newton contemplated murdering the captain and then committing suicide by throwing himself overboard. He did neither but did get transferred to a slave ship, Pegasus, headed for West Africa. His ornery disposition irritated his new crew and they left him in West Africa with **Amos Clowe, a slave dealer**. Newton admired Clowe and thought he, like Clowe, could make a fortune and name for himself trading slaves. Clowe had other plans for him. Clowe gave Newton to his wife, **Princess Peye, an African Dutchess**. Newton at age 19 became one of her slaves, abused, mistreated, underfed, and chained.

‘I had sometimes not a little difficulty to procure a draught of water when burning with fever. My bed was a mat spread upon a board or chest, and a log of wood for my pillow . . . She lived in plenty herself, but hardly allowed me sufficient to sustain life, except now and then, when in the highest good humour, she would send me victuals in her own plate after she had dined . . .’⁴

He was worked to exhaustion and brutally beaten. He was a slave and treated as such. He had lost all hope of returning to his country and was so ashamed that when a boat would come ashore for supplies he would hide in the trees. He described himself at this time as ‘**depressed to a degree beyond common wretchedness**’.⁸ His spirit was broken. He was acutely aware of how far he was from his home and the hope of being with Mary Cartlett. He renounced his faith in God and began adopting some of the local practice of Moon Worship, incantations, and charms. Life went on like this till Newton was 22 years old.

In 1748 Newton's father sent a ship to find him. Newton was rescued and returned to England weary in his soul and full of contempt for the God he had once believed in. On board Newton had no responsibilities. He engaged himself with drinking, reading, and writing poems to Mary, and making up curses towards God.

“I had no business to employ my thoughts . . . my whole life, when awake, was a course of most horrid impiety and profaneness. I know not that I have ever since met so daring a blasphemer. Not content with common oaths and imprecations, I daily invented new ones.’

En route, their ship, the Greyhound, was overtaken by a tremendous storm. The ship was filled with water sending crewmembers, cargo and livestock out to sea. The next day broke and the remaining crewmembers tried to assemble the ship for the rest of the voyage. In a moment of exhaustion and sincerity Newton uttered a phrase that shocked the self proclaimed blasphemer,

'About nine o'clock, being almost spent with cold and labor, I went to speak to the captain, who was busied elsewhere. As I was returning from him, I said, almost without meaning, 'If this will not do, the Lord have mercy on us.' This (though spoken with little reflection) was the first desire I had breathed for mercy for many years.'

This simple phrase made Newton's head spin over the next few days as they tried to guide the damaged ship through the persisting foul weather. They had food enough for seven days but had no idea where they were. During the days that followed he took his eleven hour post at the helm and simultaneously re-examined his belief in God. He thought surely even if there was a God he could have no interest in a life as wretched and insulting as mine. Despite this thought Newton began to pray. He wanted to believe in God. He wanted to believe in a God that could save him. He wanted evidence that God was real. The days passed and land was sighted! The last of the food was eaten before they realized it was low lying clouds. Another storm ravaged the ship blowing it off course. The crew turned to Newton, the blasphemer, blaming him for the wrath that was upon them shouting to throw him overboard.

'... the continued repetition of this in my ears . . . gave me much uneasiness; especially as my conscience seconded his words: I thought it very probable, that all that had befallen us was on my account; that I was at last found out by the powerful hand of God, and condemned in my own breast.'

For nearly a month the ship floated aimlessly about until it finally drifted onto the shores of Ireland. Shortly after touching land a raging storm blew in that would have surely sunk the ship. Newton was keenly aware that their lives had been spared. In reflecting back on all that had transpired Newton could see a greater purpose shining through this nightmare. And this began, in his memory, a small turning point in his life where he began to believe in a God who loved people and maybe even Newton.

Despite these events Newton continued to participate in the Slave Trade and even became master of the slave ship 'Duke of Argyle'. He was a self proclaimed ruthless businessman and admittedly cold to the plight of the Africans he traded. When slaves revolted Newton mounted guns on the deck aimed at the slaves quarters. He would whip them and put in thumbscrews to keep them quiet.

It wasn't until he became very ill that he gave up trading all together. For ten years he trained to be an Anglican priest. He wasn't accepted until 1764 and during this long process Newton became deeply regretful for his involvement in the Slave Trade and his treatment of God's children. His horrifying experiences as a slave and slave trader brought him a deep understanding of his own need for forgiveness and the redemptive power of God. In time he became a very popular preacher and hymn writer. It was in this period that he wrote the lyrics to "Amazing Grace".

In 1779 he moved to London and became Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth where he mentored many young influential figures like William Wilberforce, the soon to be famous abolitionist. Wilberforce contemplated leaving politics for ministry. Newton encouraged Wilberforce to stay in Parliament and serve God where he was. Wilberforce stayed in politics and became one of the loudest Abolitionist voices of his time. In 1787 Newton wrote, 'Thoughts upon the African Slave Trade', a very influential essay supporting the Abolitionist campaign. In it he graphically described his first hand accounts of the horrors of his old business. He joined Wilberforce in the growing campaign. In 1807 when the act to abolish Slavery became a law, Newton, nearly blind and near death, "rejoiced to hear the wonderful news." Newton died in December of that same year.

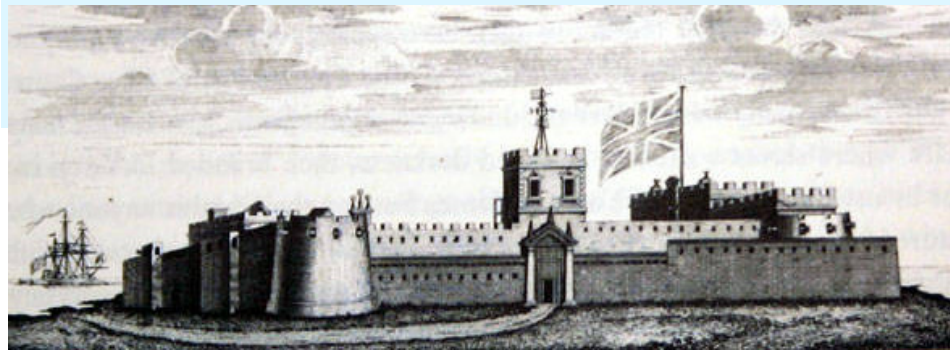
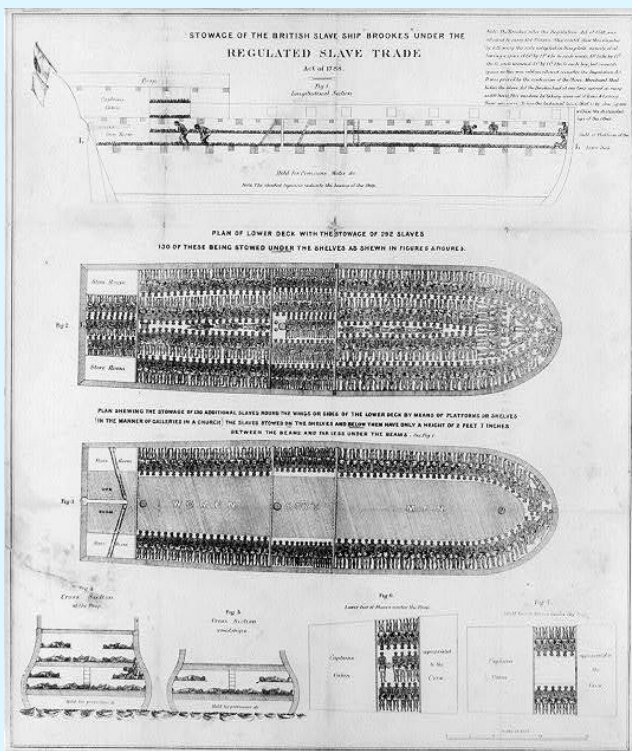
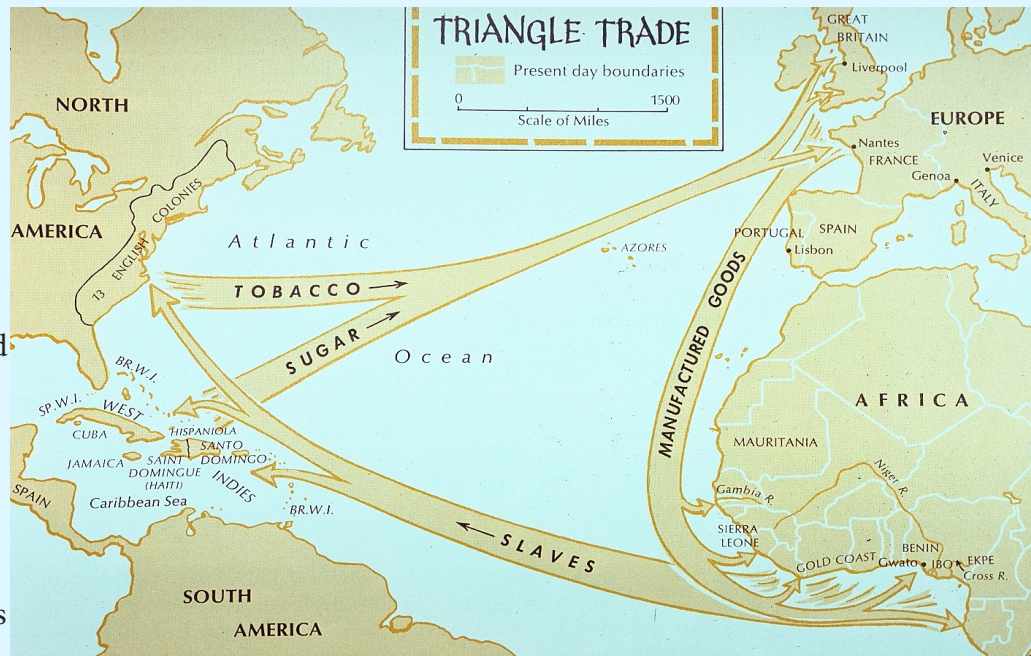
Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade began in the mid-fifteenth century and reached its peak in the 18th century having forced the migration of 12 million people. In the 1400s, Prince Henry of Portugal sent his ships to explore the coast of West Africa. While exploring, the ship stopped in Africa to trade goods such as gold and animal skins. It was here, in 1441, that the Portuguese captured their first group of slaves and sold them for their labor. Noticing Portugal's enhanced economy, France and Britain followed suit in the mid-1500s. Nearly all of the European nations joined the slave trade in the 1600s.

While many countries were involved in the slave trade, none had as significant an impact as Great Britain. The Queen also authorized the creation of a British colony in the New World and the first permanent settlement was established in 1607 in Jamestown, Virginia. Jamestown became a "boomtown" from the delivery of thousands of slaves to North American colonies and the export of tobacco to England. By 1700, Great Britain was the largest slaving nation in the world, having captured more than half of all captives taken from Africa.

The first stage began in Europe where manufactured goods (cloth, tobacco, alcohol, beads, metal goods, guns, etc.) were loaded on ships and taken to Africa. The goods were exchanged for African slaves who had been captured from areas near the African West Coast. The slaves were chained together and packed onto vessels like cattle with barely enough room to move. The boats then sailed for the Americas.

The Middle Passage was a long and dangerous voyage. Many slaves died en route from disease, mistreatment, physical and mental abuse and malnutrition. The surviving slaves were sold and the empty boats were loaded up with the produce from the slave-labor plantations (cotton, sugar, tobacco, molasses, and rum) and brought back to Europe for sale. This final leg completed the circuit, making the shape of a triangle only to to begin the harrowing voyage again.



Cape Coast Castle, Gold Coast
The Europeans built several castles and forts, along the coast of West Africa – Elmina, Cape Coast, etc. These fortresses, otherwise known as 'factories', were the first permanent trading stations built by Europeans in Africa.

Abolitionist Movement in England



Rescued slaves on board the Royal Navy ship

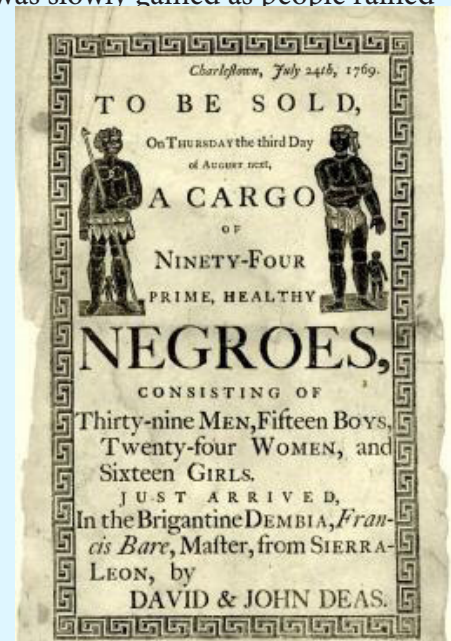
Between 1500 and 1900 12 million Africans were transported from Africa to Europe and the Americas. British merchants were responsible for the transport of 3 million of those slaves across the Atlantic to be sold. The Abolitionist Movement, which sought to end the slave trade and practice of slavery, began as a small underground movement. The **Quakers** were the first to condemn the practice in the 1600's. During the Great Awakening of the 1730s, abolition was part of the central message.

The movement didn't gain momentum until May 1787 when the **Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade** was organized

to reach a broader audience by distributing Abolitionist books, pamphlets, prints, and artifacts. In that same year, John Newton wrote a tract, 'Thoughts upon the African Slave Trade,' supporting the Abolitionist campaign. William Wilberforce, one of Newton's young mentees, was one of those early abolitionists and would spend his life leading the campaign against slavery. For years the abolitionists petitioned **Parliament** to end slavery. With every unified **petition** to Parliament, ground was slowly gained as people rallied around the cause. In February 1807 Parliament finally passed the law banning the importation of slaves in Britain. This was a victory for the Abolitionist but not an end to the campaign. Merchants were to be fined 100 pounds per slave found on a ship. Despite the law, slaves were still smuggled into the British Empire

The torch was passed on to the **African Institution**, created both to ensure the new legislation was enforced and to encourage other countries to follow Britain's lead. Very few countries responded. So, in 1823, the leading voices for the Abolitionist movement, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce, re-strategized by creating the **Anti Slavery Society**. This called for better treatment for slaves and a plan for gradual **emancipation**. Among many efforts, the society published the first account of an escaped female slave, Mary Prince. The book was in such high demand that it was reprinted 3 times in the first year alone. Despite the uni-

fied efforts of the Society, change was slow. In 1831, dissatisfied by the rate at which things were changing, the younger and more radical abolitionists in the Society formed the **Agency Committee**, which boldly and controversially fought for an end to the practice of slavery and the immediate emancipation of slaves. And because of their bold efforts on August 29, 1833, Parliament passed the **Slavery Abolition Act**, which abolished slavery throughout the British Empire. The road to worldwide abolition won a great victory but the story continues on. Dive deeper into your own country and state's history of slavery and abolitionist movements.



Parliament - is the United Kingdom's legislative government consisting of the sovereign, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons.

Petition - a formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority with respect to a particular cause.

Emancipation - process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions.

FORMS OF MODERN SLAVERY

CHattel SLAVERY: When a person assumes complete legal ownership over another. Chattel slavery is the only type where the slave is considered the legal property of the slaveholder, and it exists today primarily in Mauritania and other parts of Northern Africa. This is the type of slavery that existed in the antebellum American South.



Girls at a slavery training center in Mauritania

CONTRACT SLAVERY: When a worker is deceived into slavery through the use of a false employment contract. Slave holders create contracts to lure individuals with promises of employment, yet once they arrive at the workplace they are forced to work for no pay and cannot escape. The false contracts are used to avoid criminal charges or to prove that a "debt" is owed to the slaveholder.

DEBT BONDAGE: The most common method of enslavement today, accounting for nearly 20 million of the world's slaves. It begins when a person accepts a loan from a moneylender, often in order to purchase basic necessities such as food or medicine. The person, and often his family, is held as collateral against the loan. Because they are collateral, money they earn from work does not repay the debt but 'belongs' to the moneylender. Unable to earn money independently, the family is unable to repay the illegal debt and it is passed down from generation to generation, creating hereditary enslavement. This system is well-entrenched in South Asia, and can trap entire families in slavery for illegal debts as small as \$40.

MIGRANT LABOR: Work done by people who travel from place to place for employment. Migrant laborers today are commonly immigrants, sometimes illegal, and often exploited by their employer. They are usually paid little for work, sometimes crossing the line into slavery when they are paid nothing and unable to leave.



RETAIVES: Children in Haiti who are given or sold by their parents into domestic work for another family. The children are promised education, training, and care, but many become slaves for the family, where they are abused and forced to work.

SLAVERY TODAY

slavery is NOT a thing of the past

Slavery Defined Slavery occurs when one person completely controls another person, using violence or the threat of violence to maintain that control, exploits them economically, pays them nothing and forces them to stay against their will. See the sidebar for more slavery definitions.

estimated number of slaves in the world today:

10-30 MILLION

Human Trafficking: The Modern Day Slave Trade Human trafficking occurs when someone is tricked, kidnapped or coerced, and then taken into slavery. Globally, some 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year, according to a 2007 report from the U.S. State Department. Of that number, more than 70% are female and about 20% are children. According to a United Nations report, in 46% of human trafficking cases, the recruiter was known to the victim.

average price of a slave



= \$40,000
(adjusted to today's value)



= \$90

The New Slavery Today, millions of economically and socially vulnerable people around the world are potential slaves. This "supply" makes slaves today cheaper than they have ever been. Since they are so cheap, slaves are not considered a major investment worth maintaining. If a slave becomes ill, injured, elderly, or troublesome, they are often killed. For most slave holders, legally 'owning' the slave is an inconvenience since they already exert total control over the individual's labor and profits. Today the slave holder cares more about high profits than the ethnic background of the slave - profit trumps skin color. Most slaves are forced to work in agriculture, mining, and prostitution. From these sectors, their exploited labor flows into the global economy, and into our lives.

human beings trafficked into the U.S. annually

14,500-17,500

In Your Own Backyard Stories about human trafficking are often set in far-away places, but human trafficking happens in cities and towns all over the world, including the United States. Enslaved farmworkers have been found harvesting tomatoes and picking strawberries on farms. Young girls have been forced into prostitution in cities across America. Women have been enslaved as domestic workers in suburban homes. And human trafficking victims have been found working in neighborhood restaurants, hotels, nail salons, and shops. Wherever you live, chances are some form of human trafficking has taken place there.

TAKE ACTION

Educate Yourself and Spread the Word! Visit these websites to learn more about slavery today, then share the information with everyone you know.

- love146.org
- freetheslaves.net
- thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com
- notforsalecampaign.org
- antislavery.org

Modern Day Slavery

“Our fight against human trafficking is one of the great human rights causes of our time...”

– PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

In 2011, then Secretary of State Clinton stated that as many as **27 million people** worldwide are victims of human trafficking.

The International Labour Organization estimates that **\$32 billion are generated annually** by the human trafficking industry.

Around **800,000 victims** are trafficked **across international borders per year**. Seventy percent are trafficked for sex.

UNICEF reports that across the world, there are over **1 million children** entering the sex trade every year and that approximately **30 million children** have lost their childhood through sexual exploitation over the past 30 years

Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators, including individual **pimps, small families** or **businesses**, loose-knit decentralized **criminal networks**, and international **organized criminal syndicates**.

It's evident we still have a problem but there is hope. There are many organizations worldwide committed to ending this tragedy. Businesses must clean up their supply chains and consumers must demand slavery-free products, governments and international institutions must toughen enforcement and fund anti-slavery work worldwide, activists and advocates must educate the vulnerable about their rights and empower those in slavery to take a stand for freedom. And you too can participate by bringing awareness to the issue and partnering with local and international organizations committed to the cause.

Get Connected

Polaris Project

Named after the North Star “Polaris” that guided slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad.

International Justice Mission

Works directly with local governments in the developing world, partnering with churches, NGOs and universities to mobilize a global justice movement.

G.E.M.S.

Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS) is the only organization in New York State specifically designed to serve girls and young women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking.

The CNN Freedom Project Blogs

Spotlights the horrors of modern-day slavery, amplifying the voices of the victims, highlighting success stories and helping unravel the complicated tangle of criminal enterprises trading in human life.

Children of the Night

Children of the Night is a privately funded non-profit organization established in 1979 and dedicated to rescuing America's children from the ravages of prostitution. 24/7 Hotline

Restore

Finds victims through outreach strategies and partnerships with law enforcement, the court system, and community-based organizations and restore the survivors through a safehouse program.

Allies Against Slavery

Is a community of people dedicated to ending slavery in Austin, TX and to create a model for a slave free city.

The Pink Room- Documentary

The Pink Room follows the journey of Mien and other young girls in the turbulent world of sex slavery that at times seems unfathomable.

Teaching Points

1. What can you find out about the Abolitionist movement in your own country/state?
2. What does History teach us about creating social change?
3. Are there issues for which you'd like to petition your own government?
4. Can you name any other movies, musicals, novels, or art that reflects current political and social issues facing the country?
5. Do you think art and entertainment is an effective device to raise questions about these issues?
6. What issues are you passionate about and how can you raise awareness for them?
7. CREATE: Split up into groups and create a short musical or play from the historical periods you are learning about in class.

Further Reading and Watching

John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace -It is the first biography to draw on Newton's unpublished diaries and correspondence, providing fresh insight into the life of this complex and memorable Christian. The result is a fascinating, colorful, and historically significant portrait of John Newton, a self-described "great sinner" redeemed by a great Savior through amazing grace.

History of Mary Prince : A West Indian Slave -the first account of the life of a black woman to be published in the United Kingdom.

Half the Sky - A passionate call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world.

Girls Like Us -Rachel Lloyd's riveting survivor story is the true tale of her hard-won escape from the commercial sex industry and her bold founding of GEMS, New York City's Girls Education and Mentoring Service, to help countless other young girls escape "the life."

Very Young Girls - Critically acclaimed by the New York Times and Film Festivals around the world, Very Young Girls is an expose of human trafficking that follows thirteen and fourteen year old American girls as they are seduced, abused, and sold on New York's streets by pimps, and treated as adult criminals by police. For more info on the commercial sexual exploitation of girls visit www.gems-girls.org

Nefarious -Filmmaker Benjamin Nolot initially set out for a peek at the human trafficking industry. Four years later, his peek has turned into a journey of discovery which yielded over 800 hours of footage and a panoramic view of the closed, heinous, nefarious underworld of human trafficking. Travel across four continents, through 19 countries, and into dingy Cambodian karaoke bars, Amsterdam's infamous red-light district, Moldovan orphanages, legal Nevada brothels, and the street corners and alleyways of metropolises worldwide for more than a glance at the fastest-growing organized crime industry in the world with the groundbreaking, tell-all Nefarious: Merchant of Souls.

Trade In Hope - A film exposing human trafficking in Texas through a first hand of account of one woman's story. The film aims to raise awareness and proposes a model for a slave free city.

Online Resources

Biography of John Newton- by John Dunn http://www.newcreationlibrary.net/books/pdf/285_JohnNewton.pdf

In Motion -The African-American Migration Experience. -<http://www.inmotionaame.org/home.cfm>

Revealing Histories. Remembering Slavery. -This website is a record of the objects, stories, voices and events that were the Revealing Histories project. <http://revealinghistories.org.uk/about-us.html>

International Slavery Museum -<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/about/index.aspx>

History.com -<http://www.history.com/topics/abolitionist-movement>

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database - <http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/assessment/intro-maps.faces>

