

Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales



# Preparing for the Global Citizenship Mini Challenge



## SOURCE PACK



We can learn a lot about the issue of slavery and inequality today by studying Welsh history as well as examples from the world today.

Study these sources about slavery and inequality in the Roman Empire (including Wales and slavery in modern Thailand). The sources will help you to understand about different kinds of slavery, why slavery exists and the impact on those involved.

If you would like to know more why not visit the National Roman Legion Museum at Caerleon. You can do more research online by visiting the British government Modern Slavery website, developed by the Home Office with the support of the NSPCC.

**ISSUE: INEQUALITY**  
**FOCUS: SLAVERY**

# SOURCE 1: Extracts from an account of the inequality between slaves and masters in Roman times by Amgueddfa Cymru (2015)

## Slavery in Roman times

Slavery played a very important part in Roman society. Slaves performed many tasks, from manual labour to highly skilled professions. Under Roman law slaves were considered the property of their masters and could be bought and sold. This was often done at slave auctions, where a slave's skills and strengths would be listed. Some slaves would be bought for the equivalent of thousands of dollars in today's prices.

As the Roman Empire grew a workforce was needed to maintain the empire, for example by working in the mines. As areas were conquered the people were often captured and sold to slave traders. Slavery was so common in fact that in the 1st century BC an estimated 30-40% of the population of Italy were slaves. Throughout the Roman Empire it has been estimated that up to 5 million people were slaves, around 15% of the total population. Roman slavery was not based on race; slaves could be from all over Europe and the wider world.

## Types of slave

There were many different types of slaves in the Roman Empire, working in a wide range of occupations. These included:

- Household slaves: these were slaves owned by individuals to work in a private home. Roles included chef, butler, maids and more. A large house had many slaves performing different roles. Living conditions, although not as grand as the family they worked for, could sometimes be superior to some free people
- Workplace slaves: these were both urban and rural. In urban areas, bakers and shoemakers and many others were slaves. In rural areas, most farm workers were slaves
- Mining: tens of thousands of slaves worked in mines, where conditions were often terrible. These slaves were often convicts who were sent to work in the mines as punishment. They would often work in the mines until they died, with no chance of freedom
- Gladiators: about half of gladiators were slaves. Successful gladiators could be rewarded with their freedom; however, being a gladiator was obviously incredibly dangerous

## SOURCE 1 *continued*

### **Rights of slaves**

Slaves were considered property under Roman law, and as such had no legal personhood. The treatment of slaves could be subject to abuse by unscrupulous owners, with some slaves being subject to poor living conditions. Slaves could own property, although it was held in the name of their owner. Treatment of slaves did improve as the Empire grew and slaves were offered some legal protection. Skilled slaves were also entitled to earn a little money from their crafts, which they could use for their own personal use.

### **Freedom**

The majority of slaves could, in time, earn or buy their freedom. Freedom was often earned as a result of a good deed towards their owner or by earning their respect. A freed slave became a full Roman citizen, with all the benefits this held. In fact some freed slaves became rich and powerful. Freed male slaves were allowed to vote, however they were not able to hold office. Some slaves, such as those working in the mines as a punishment, worked in the knowledge that they would never be freed.

SOURCE 2: Mosaics were made to decorate the houses or villas of rich Romans. Below is an ancient Roman mosaic in Ostia Antica. They often depicted their wealth, their slaves and Roman gods.



GETTY IMAGES  
MOMENT OPEN DANIELA WHITE IMAGES

SOURCE 3: The Roman writer Apuleius, describing a group of slaves in his novel *The Golden Ass* c. 165 AD

Their skins were seamed all over with the marks of old floggings, as you could see through the holes in their ragged shirts that shaded rather than covered their scarred backs; but some wore only loin-cloths. They had letters marked on their foreheads, and half-shaved heads and irons on their legs.

## SOURCE 4: Extracts from the play *Pseudolus* by the Roman comedy playwright Plautus c. 201BC

*Ballio, a slave owner, is giving orders to his servants.*

**Ballio:** Get out, come, out with you, you rascals; kept at a loss, and bought at a loss. Not one of you dreams minding your business, or being a bit of use to me, unless I carry on thus!  
(*Ballio strikes all of the slaves with his whip*)

Never did I see men more like asses than you! Why, your ribs are hardened with the stripes. If one flogs you, he hurts himself the most:

(*Ballio talks to himself.*) Regular whipping posts are they all, and all they do is to pilfer, purloin, prig, plunder, drink, eat, and abscond (run away)! Oh! They look decent enough; but they're cheats in their conduct.

(*Ballio talks to the slaves again*) Yesterday I gave each of you his special job, but you're so worthless, neglectful, and stubborn, that I must remind you with a good basting. So you think, I guess, you'll get the better of this whip and of me – by your stout hides! But your hides won't prove harder than my good cowhide. Look at this, please! Give heed to this! (Ballio then flogs one of the slaves) Well? Does it hurt? Now stand all of

you here, you race born to be thrashed! Turn your ears this way! Give heed to what I say. You, fellow! That's got the pitcher, fetch the water. Take care the kettle's full. You with the axe, look after chopping the wood.

**Slave:** But this axe's edge is blunted.

**Ballio:** Well; be it so! And so are you blunted with stripes, but is that any reason why you shouldn't work for me? I order that you clean up the house. You know your business; hurry indoors. (*Slave follows orders and leaves*). Now you (*Ballio talks to another slave*) smooth the couches. Clean the plate and put in proper order. Take care that when I'm back from the Forum I find things done – all swept, sprinkled, scoured, smoothed, cleaned and set in order. Today's my birthday. You should all set to and celebrate it. Take care – do you hear – to lay the salted bacon, the brawn, the collared neck, and the udder in water. I want to entertain some fine gentlemen in real style, to give the idea that I'm rich. Get indoors, and get these things ready, so there's no delay when the cook comes. I'm going to market to buy what fish is to be had.

(Translation: William Stearns Davis, ed., *Readings in Ancient History: Illustrative Extracts from the Sources*, 2 Vols. (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1912-13))

## SOURCE 5: Advice on the care and handling of slaves recorded by Cato the Elder, c. 170 BC. Cato the Elder was an important Roman historian and politician

Country slaves ought to receive in the winter, when they are at work, four modii of grain; and four modii and a half during the summer. The superintendent, the housekeeper, the watchman, and the shepherd get three modii; slaves in chains four pounds of bread in winter and five pounds from the time when the work of training the vines ought to begin until the figs have ripened.

...As for clothes, give out a tunic of three feet and a half, and a cloak once in two years. When you give a tunic or cloak take back the old ones, to make cassocks out of. Once in two years, good shoes should be given.



## SOURCE 6: Advice on the care and handling of slaves by Seneca the Younger recorded in a letter written c. 65 AD. Seneca was an important Roman who was once an advisor to the Emperor Nero

Kindly remember that he whom you call your slave sprang from the same stock, is smiled upon by the same skies, and on equal terms with yourself breathes, lives, and dies. It is just as possible for you to see in him a free-born man as for him to see in you a slave.

I do not wish to involve myself in too large a question, and to discuss the treatment of slaves, towards whom we Romans are excessively haughty, cruel, and insulting. But this is the kernel of my advice: Treat your inferiors as you would be treated by your betters.

Associate with your slave on kindly, even on friendly, terms; let him talk with you, plan with you, live with you. I know that at this point all the exquisites will cry out against me in a body; they will say: "There is nothing more debasing, more disgraceful, than this." Do you not see...how our ancestors removed...from slaves everything insulting? They called the master "father of the household," and the slaves "members of the household," a custom which still holds.

They established a holiday on which masters and slaves should eat together, – not as the only day for this custom, but as obligatory on that day in any case. They allowed the slaves to attain honours in the household and to pronounce judgments.



## SOURCE 7: Slave gang chain found at Llyn Cerrig Bach on the island of Anglesey, Wales

This iron chain was one of a pair found at Llyn Cerrig Bach on the island of Anglesey in north Wales. It is composed of five sets of neck shackles, joined to each other by a series of 'figure of eight' shaped links.

This gang chain may have been used for slaves during the Roman conquest period (100 BC-78 AD). The classical writer Strabo tells us that slaves were exported from Britain to the Roman world in the first century BC.



## SOURCE 8: Extracts and images from the *BBC History* website account of gladiators, written by Professor Kathleen Coleman (2011)

Today, the idea of gladiators fighting to the death, and of an amphitheatre where this could take place watched by an enthusiastic audience, epitomises the depths to which the Roman Empire was capable of sinking. Yet, to the Romans themselves, the institution of the arena was one of the defining features of their civilisation.

Hardly any contemporary voices questioned the morality of staging gladiatorial combat. And the gladiators' own epitaphs mention their profession without shame, apology, or resentment. So who were these gladiators, and what was their role in Roman society?

Most gladiators were slaves. They were subjected to a rigorous training, fed on a high-energy diet, and given expert medical attention. Hence they were an expensive investment, not to be despatched lightly.

For a gladiator who died in combat the trainer (*lanista*) might charge the sponsor of the fatal spectacle up to a hundred times the cost of a gladiator who survived. Hence it was very much more costly for sponsors to supply the bloodshed that audiences often demanded, although if they did allow a gladiator to be slain it was seen as an indication of their generosity.



Roman pottery

## SOURCE 9: Description of the slave revolt (73-71 BC) led by Spartacus, based on an account by the Greek historians Appian and Plutarch

The slave Spartacus was a gladiator at the gladiatorial training-school at Capua preparing to fight in the amphitheatre for the amusement of spectators. In 73 BC Spartacus led about seventy of his fellow gladiators in a break for freedom. They overcame the guards and, arming themselves with clubs and daggers that they took from people on the roads, broke out and took refuge on Mount Vesuvius.

Over the next few months thousands of fugitive slaves and even some free men joined Spartacus and his slave army. At first the Romans didn't take Spartacus seriously, but this changed as the slave army increased to over 70,000 people. The Romans then sent a number of increasingly important generals and armies against Spartacus, but all were defeated.

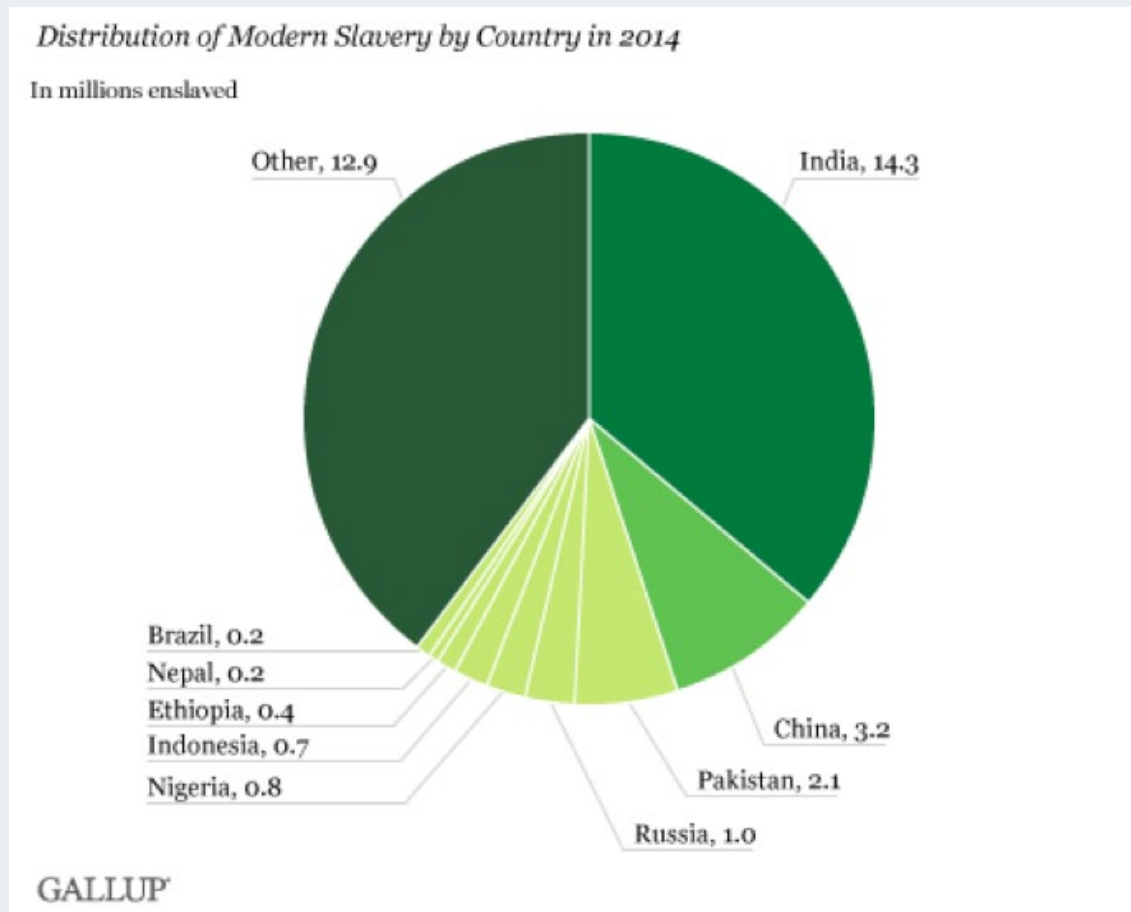
After three years of the revolt, the Romans sent their six best legions, led by Licinius Crassus, against Spartacus. Spartacus decided to retreat to the port of Brundisium from where the slave army and their families could sail across the sea to safety in Sicily. When a group of pirates failed to provide the necessary ships as they had promised, Spartacus was left with no choice but to fight a huge Roman army led by Crassus and boosted by

support from another army commanded by Pompey. Against these impossible odds, the slaves fought a long, bloody and brave battle. Spartacus was wounded, but continued the fight until he and the great mass of those with him were surrounded and slain. To teach every slave in the Roman Empire a lesson, Crassus captured and crucified about 6,000 of the rebel slave army along the whole road from Capua to Rome. The body of Spartacus was never found, suggesting he might have escaped.

# SLAVERY AND INEQUALITY IN MODERN THAILAND

## SOURCE 1: Gallup polling organization survey of distribution of modern slavery by country (2014)

Results of the survey below are based on face to face interviews with 8,061 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in May and June 2014 in Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan and Russia. Gallup estimate 5.4 million people are in modern slavery in seven high-risk countries and a total of 35.8 million people enslaved worldwide.



## SOURCE 2: Extracts from a report in *The Huffington Post*, 13 April 2015

### **Demand for cheap seafood drives modern-day slavery**

It may be hard to stomach, but your tuna sandwich, your sushi, and even your cat food may be directly connected to modern-day slavery on the other side of the world – and there's very little you can do about it. Illegal pirate-controlled overfishing in the seas of Southeast Asia is not only irrevocably damaging the environment but luring thousands of desperate or naïve workers from places like Burma, Thailand, and Indonesia into bondage from which it is hard to escape.

In March, the Associated Press released a jaw-dropping report on slavery in the Asian fishing industry, focusing its story on the tiny island of Benjina, Indonesia, about 400 miles north of Australia. The fishing grounds are Indonesian, but their bounty attracts illegal fishing fleets, including many from Thailand, that are looking for tuna, squid, and mackerel.

According to a report from the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) called "Pirates and Slaves," Thailand is the world's third-largest seafood exporter, with a total catch valued at \$7 billion in 2013, but perhaps 39 percent of the \$1.6 billion worth of wild-caught seafood entering the U.S. market from Thailand has been caught illegally.

Desperate employment agents have recruited children and even the disabled, lying about the wages and sometimes drugging and kidnapping migrants. The agents then "sell" the slaves, most often to Thai fishing captains, for about \$1,000. Then, of course, the men are told they have to work off that debt -- a debt that will never end.

Enslaved fishermen interviewed by the AP said captains forced them to drink dirty water and work 20- to 22-hour shifts with no days off. They said they were kicked or whipped with stingray tails if they complained or tried to rest. They were paid little or nothing as they hauled in heavy nets. AP reporters even found some slaves who had complained about the conditions imprisoned in cages in a Benjina warehouse. "I always thought if there was an entrance, there had to be an exit," Tun Lin Maung, a slave abandoned on Benjina, told the AP. "Now I know that's not true."

Although it's hard to track illegally caught fish once it hits the Thai docks and is trucked off in all directions, the AP verified that some of it found its way into supply chains that led directly to major American grocery chains and food distributors, as well as to canned tuna packers and pet food manufacturers.

SOURCE 3: Many of the Thai slaves were Rohingya from Burma (also known as Myanmar)



SOURCE 4: Graphic from CNN online news report, 15 May 2015





## SOURCE 5: Associated Press report interview with Hlaing Min, a 32-year-old Burmese migrant fisherman, 21 April 2015

“Basically, we are slaves — and slavery is the only word that I can find — but our condition is worse than slavery. On behalf of all the fishermen here, I request to the Congressmen that the U.S. stop buying all fish from Thailand. ... This fish, we caught it with our blood and sweat, but we don’t get a single benefit from it.”

## SOURCE 6: Extracts from a *BBC* online news report about slavery in Thailand, 23 January 2014

General Chatchawal Suksomjit, deputy chief of police, is walking down the lines, shaking hands, nodding and saluting. With his dark glasses, slicked-back hair and shiny grey uniform he oozes importance. He ushers us on to some waiting police boats and out into the waters of the Malacca Straits, along the border with Malaysia. The general is head of a new committee set up to deal with the trafficking of men into the fishing business – which he describes as “dirty, dangerous and difficult”.



GETTY IMAGES NEWS PAULA BRONSTEIN



## SOURCE6 *continued*

“The focus of the mission today is to find trafficked and forced labour,” announces the general in Thai, before ordering the mainly Burmese crew down on to the deck. The crew have holes in their shirts or no shirts at all. Most are barefoot. We slide around on the nets, scales and fish guts on the deck.

When I talk in Burmese they speak quietly, glancing nervously at the captain and the crew master. One group say they didn’t know they were coming on to a boat when they left Rakhine State in the west of Burma, or Myanmar as it is also known. They owe a broker \$750 (£450) for bringing them here. One man glances out from under a mop of salt-soaked hair. “It’s been seven months,” he says. He still hasn’t been paid.

With my basic Burmese and the crew’s reluctance to talk, it’s hard to assess the situation but brokers, deception and debt often go hand-in-hand with forced labour. Typically an illegal worker from Cambodia or Burma meets a broker and is offered a factory job. He accepts and finds himself passed from one broker to another, taken to a port and put on a fishing boat. The victim is then told he owes a lot of money.

If he escapes, then as an undocumented migrant the police will arrest and deport him. One Cambodian man I spoke to was trapped for three years on a boat without any wages, while he “paid off his debt”. He was never told how much he owed.

The general and his team cannot talk directly to the Burmese-speaking crew because they haven’t brought a translator so determining whether the men are trafficked is not possible. “How do you know there was no forced labour or trafficking here?” I ask. “From what we saw, there was no lock-up or detention room,” he says. “We saw no signs of harm on their bodies or in their facial expressions. By looking into their faces and their eyes they didn’t look like they had been forced to work.”

## SOURCE 7: Adapted from a *Guardian* news online report on slavery in the Thai fishing industry, 20 July 2015

### **SURVIVOR 1**

*"I was only 16 when I first went to the jungle camps of southern Thailand. I was held in a pen with hundreds of other slaves. People were tortured, raped and even murdered. In total, I saw 13 people die. There was a river by the camp which was used as a toilet and some people drank that water. Those who could not pay a ransom were tortured by the brokers. The second time I was held I was among groups of young migrants forced to dig a mass graves for corpses of those who had died or been killed. When my family were unable to pay a ransom, I was taken by truck from the jungle to Songkhla, in southern Thailand. At the port I was handed to a boat captain and taken on to a fishing boat flying the Thai flag. I didn't set foot on land again for four years."*

### **SURVIVOR 2**

*"We were sold on to a fishing boat by a broker even after we got 15,000 Thai baht from our relatives [for our release]. The broker got 25,000 or 30,000 baht [\$900] for each person. We had to work nine months in that boat. We were beaten [they] kicked our foreheads with shoes and beat us brutally in the boat. Only a Thai man protected us, otherwise we would have*

*been killed at sea. We were forced to work 22-hour days. If we slept, we were beaten. Once, my friend was beaten so badly they broke his legs and [he] couldn't walk. He died 10 days later."*

### **SLAVE BROKER**

*"If they don't look so healthy, they are not usually worth a lot of money. The boat owners prefer the healthy, tall ones, because the work is quite hard. The Rohingya don't want to go on the boats but they have to. I sold more than 100 Rohingya on to the fishing vessels. The boat owners pay for them – I get about 30,000 baht [\$900] per person."*

Faced with mounting international condemnation, the Thai government set a deadline of 10 days to close down the remaining camps and stop the trafficking operations. It now insists human traffickers no longer operate within its borders. As their jungle camps are shut down, trafficking syndicates are reportedly taking their operations off-shore to huge multi-storey cargo ships acting as holding pens for thousands of Rohingya.

## SOURCE 8: Extracts from The Guardian newspaper online reports on slavery in the Thai fishing industry, 10 June 2014

### **Walmart, Tesco and Costco among retailers responding to revelations of slavery in prawn supply chains**

The Thai food giant CP Foods says it sells prawns to many leading supermarkets in the US, UK and across Europe. The Guardian traced CP prawns to all of the top four global retailers – Walmart, Carrefour, Costco and Tesco – and other big-name supermarkets including Morrisons, the Co-operative, Aldi and Iceland.

All said they condemned slavery and human trafficking for labour. Some appeared already aware that slavery had been reported in the Thai fishing sector and said they were setting up programmes to try to tackle it.

**Carrefour** said it conducts social audits of all suppliers, including the CP factory that supplies it with some prawns. It admitted that it did not check right to the end of its complex chains.

**Tesco** said: “We regard slavery as completely unacceptable. We are working with CP Foods to ensure the supply chain

is slavery-free, and are also working in partnership with the International Labour Organisation and Ethical Trading Initiative to achieve broader change across the Thai fishing industry.”

**Morrisons** said it would take the matter up with CP Foods urgently. “We are concerned by the findings of the investigation. Our ethical trading policy forbids the use of forced labour by suppliers and their suppliers.”



## SOURCE 9: *Associated Press* report of a visit to Indonesia by the US government official, Catherine A. Novelli, March 2014

“I’m sure that your public would be concerned that the fish that they ate came from a slave,” said an Indonesian reporter. Novelli’s response was quick. “In the United States we actually have a law that it is illegal to import any product that is made with forced labor or slave labor, and that includes fish,” she said. “To the extent that we can trace ... where the fish are coming from, we won’t allow fish to come into the United States that has been produced with forced labor or slavery.”

## SOURCE 10: Comments by British Prime Minister David Cameron in an official Government press release announcing the passing of the *Modern Slavery Act*, 29 July 2015

The scourge of modern slavery has no place in today's society and I am proud of all that Britain is doing to wipe it out. Later this week, new measures will come into force in the UK to provide greater protection and compensation for victims and to make sure that those responsible face tougher sanctions. But there is still much more to do.

It is shocking that of thousands Vietnamese children in the UK are being used for profit by criminal gangs and that dozens more children are estimated to arrive on our shores every month. That's why it's so important that we work with Vietnam to identify what more we can do to tackle this issue together. I'm delighted that the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, has

agreed to visit Vietnam later this year to look at what practical support and training we can provide. And we will fund a second shelter for child victims of trafficking and returnees to ensure they get the care and support they need as they reintegrate.



From October, we will also require all businesses with a £36 million turnover or above to disclose what they are doing to ensure their business and supply chains are slavery free. This measure is one of the first of its kind in the world and it will be a huge step forward, introducing greater accountability on business for the condition of their supply chains.