

ACTIVITY 1

THE JOURNEY OF COTTON

I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences.

SOC 2–04a

I can use evidence selectively to research current social, political or economic issues. SOC 2–15a

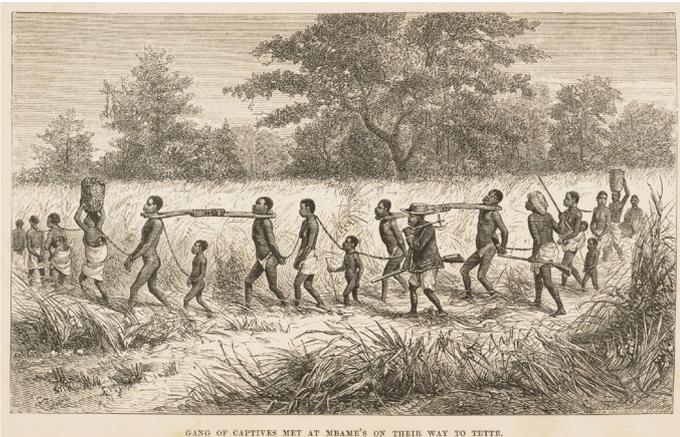
I can gather and use information about forms of discrimination against people in societies and consider the impact this has on people's lives. SOC 2–16b

During the early 19th century cotton goods were extremely sought after. Factories, like the Blantyre Cotton Works, shipped their products all over the world. But the cotton trade was far from fair...

TASK A

Look at these two images:

Can you think of any connections between the two?



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TASK B

Read the statements below to help you work out the connection.

- 1. The cloth was made into different types of goods such as clothing, curtains and tablecloths.**
- 2. Cotton was grown in huge fields and was hand-picked by enslaved people.**
- 3. The raw cotton was then shipped to Britain where it was bought by cotton mills including Blantyre Cotton Works.**
- 4. Inside the cotton mills, the raw cotton went through many machines until it was woven into cloth.**
- 5. People from Africa were enslaved and taken to America and the Caribbean where they were forced to work in cotton plantations.**
- 6. These cotton goods were then shipped all over the world and sold to customers for lots of money.**



Livingstone's red cotton shirt

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TAKING IT FURTHER

In the 19th century, people from Africa were enslaved and forced to work picking cotton in America and the Caribbean. Today many people are still made to work in terrible conditions while picking cotton. To find out more about problems in the modern day cotton industry, look at 'Cotton Unfolded' from the SFTF www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk/take-action/cotton-unfolded.

Is there cotton in your school uniform? Why not get in touch with ApparelXchange to find out about ways we can make school uniforms more sustainable. <https://www.apparelxchange.co.uk/>

