

## Why did people in Britain support slavery and the slave trade? 2

**A.** If you stop the slave trade you will ruin businesses and put thousands of people out of work. Think of all the people who make goods to trade such as cloth, guns and iron bars and all those who make equipment used in the trade such as ropers, chains and manacles.

**B.** Ending the trade would be disastrous for Britain as a trading nation. You would simply be giving the trade to our rivals, the French, who would benefit from it.

**C.** People make money from trading slaves and other goods. This goes into banks which invest it in other enterprises. This creates wealth for everyone.

**D.** If you free the slaves there will be riots and disorder, killings and anarchy in the West Indies. We will not be able to govern all the freed slaves. On Tobago there are 20 slaves for every white person.

**E.** Contrary to the propaganda of the anti-slavers, most slaves are very happy. They are provided with a house and clothing. They never want for a meal because the owner wants to keep them strong. When they are sick they see a doctor.

**F.** I get my livelihood from working on the ships. Me and all my mates in the ports will be much the poorer if the trade stops.

**G.** The condition of many slaves is much more comfortable than that of many labourers and factory workers in Britain itself.

**H.** The slave trade is a trade like any other. Enterprising people like me can make a small fortune from several voyages if we manage to keep the majority of our slaves alive.

**I.** We produce cheap British sugar using slaves, sugar you all use in your tea and coffee and to sweeten the cakes you eat. That will disappear.

**J.** Many slaves, through the work of missionaries, convert to Christianity, the only way to heaven.

**K.** The wealth of my city has benefited enormously from slavery. It is a source of work and industry for half the population. Money has been put into buildings and works for the poor. Would you throw that all away?