

The Atlantic slave trade: Investigating primary sources



Scotland and the Caribbean

Introduction

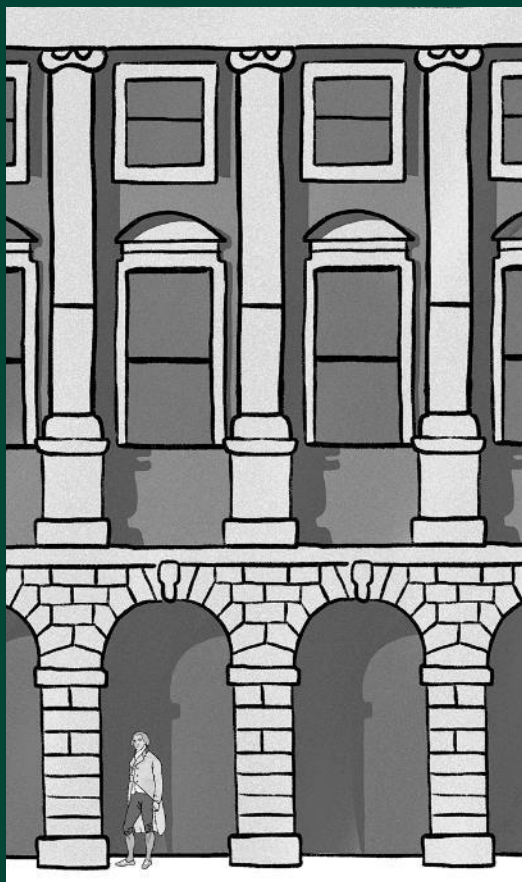
The story of Scotland's economic success is inseparable from slavery. The wealth created through the Atlantic slave trade helped shape the course of Scottish industrialisation during the 18th and 19th centuries, creating lasting impacts to the present day.

Use this PowerPoint alongside the **Scotland and the Caribbean** resource sheet to explore objects in our collections as primary sources of evidence.



Scotland's rising wealth

The economic impact of the Atlantic slave trade and wider slavery system on Scotland can be seen in various ways:



- the growth of industries
- the rising wealth of merchants and manufacturers

Please use the **Scotland and the Caribbean** resource sheet (page 1) for further information.

Initial discussion

Evidence of the wealth generated through the Atlantic Slave trade can still be seen in Scotland's towns, cities and countryside today.

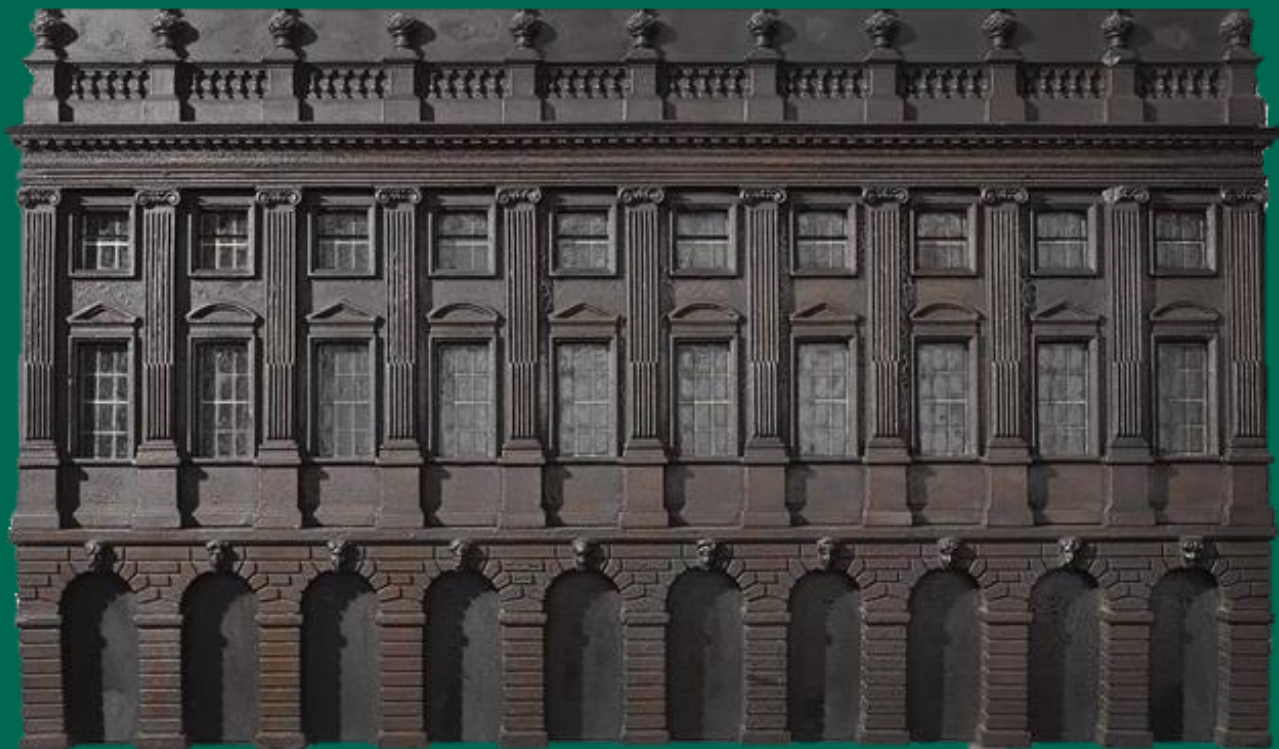
In pairs or groups, think about what this evidence might be?



Objects as evidence

The following objects provide evidence of Scotland's rising wealth and its connections to the Caribbean through the Atlantic slave trade.





Scotland and the Caribbean

Object one

Dimensions: Length: 97.0cm, Height: 55.5cm, Depth: 5.0cm

Exploring the object

What can you see? How would you describe the object?



What is it made from?

What is it?

What do you think it might have been used for?

What is this object?



- An architect's model of the first Glasgow town house, or town hall.
- The model was made from mahogany wood, around the year 1756.
- The building itself was designed and built by Allan Dreghorn and Mungo Naismith.

Please use the **Scotland and the Caribbean** resource sheet (page 2) for further information.

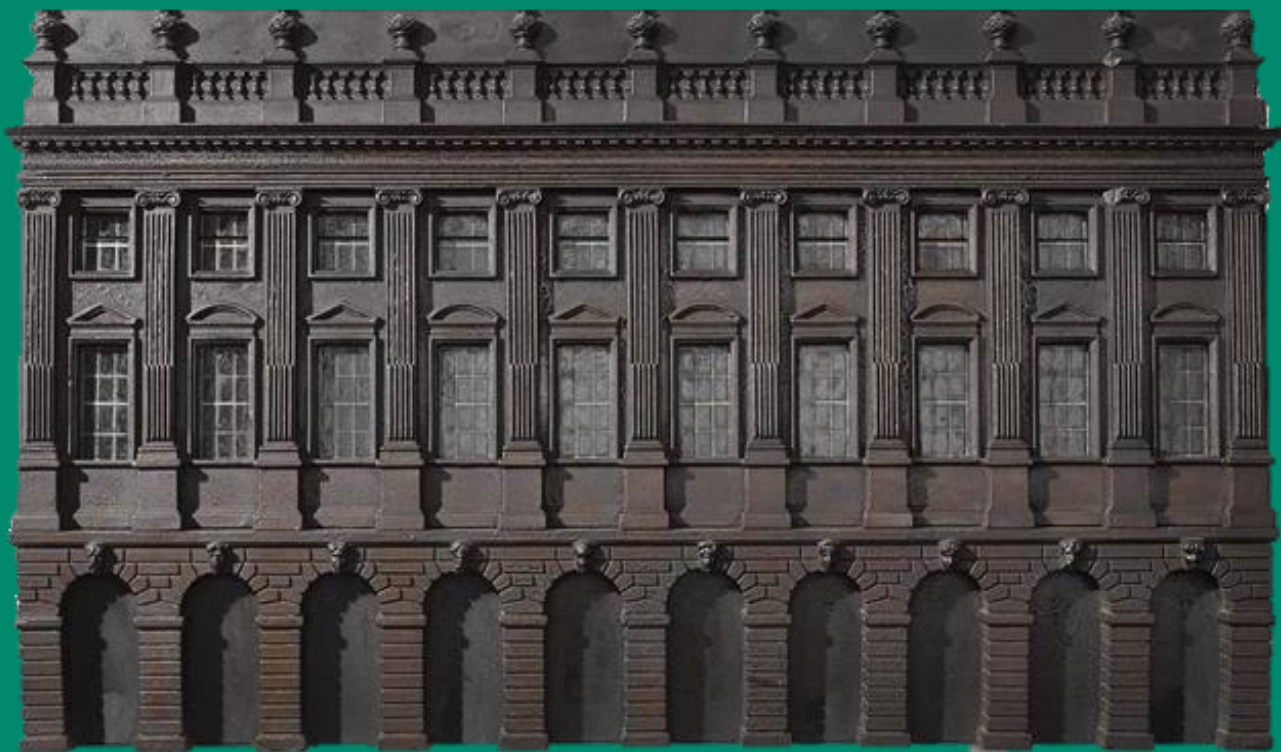
Discussion questions

Please use the **Scotland and the Caribbean** resource sheet (pages 2 & 3) for further information to support your discussions.

What words would you use to describe this model?

How does the building compare with...

- your house?
- your school?
- your local library or museum?
- other buildings in your neighbourhood?



Who do you think might have visited or used this building?

Have you seen buildings like this one before?

What impression do you think the architect was trying to make on passers-by?



Research

Research the material this object is made from:

What is mahogany wood?

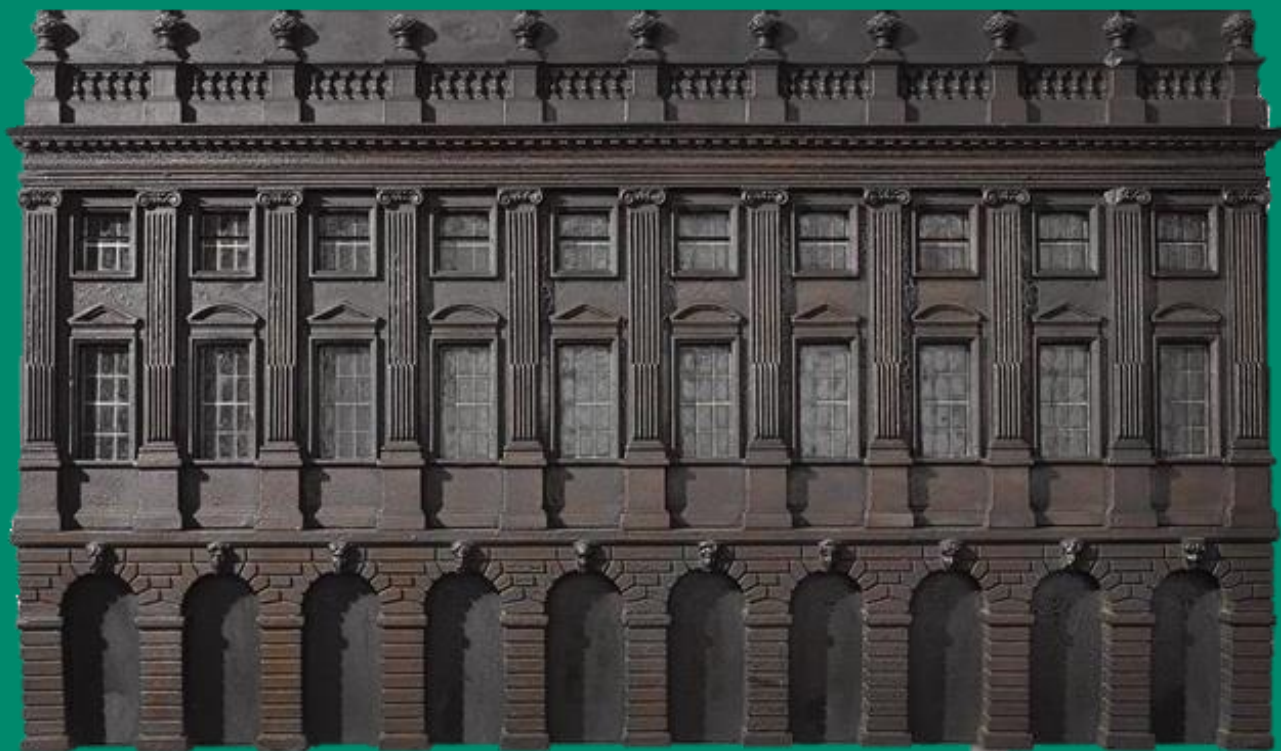
Where did it come from?

Who chopped the trees down?

How did mahogany wood end up in Scotland?



Research any local grand buildings which remind you of the Glasgow town house.



Find out:

- when they were built
- who funded them
- if they were connected to the Atlantic slave trade?

Reflect

How do you think the links between profits made from slavery and buildings in our towns and cities should be recognised and represented?





Scotland and the Caribbean

Objects two and three

Dimensions of each:

Height: 23.3cm

Diameter at rim and base: 14.7cm

Exploring the objects

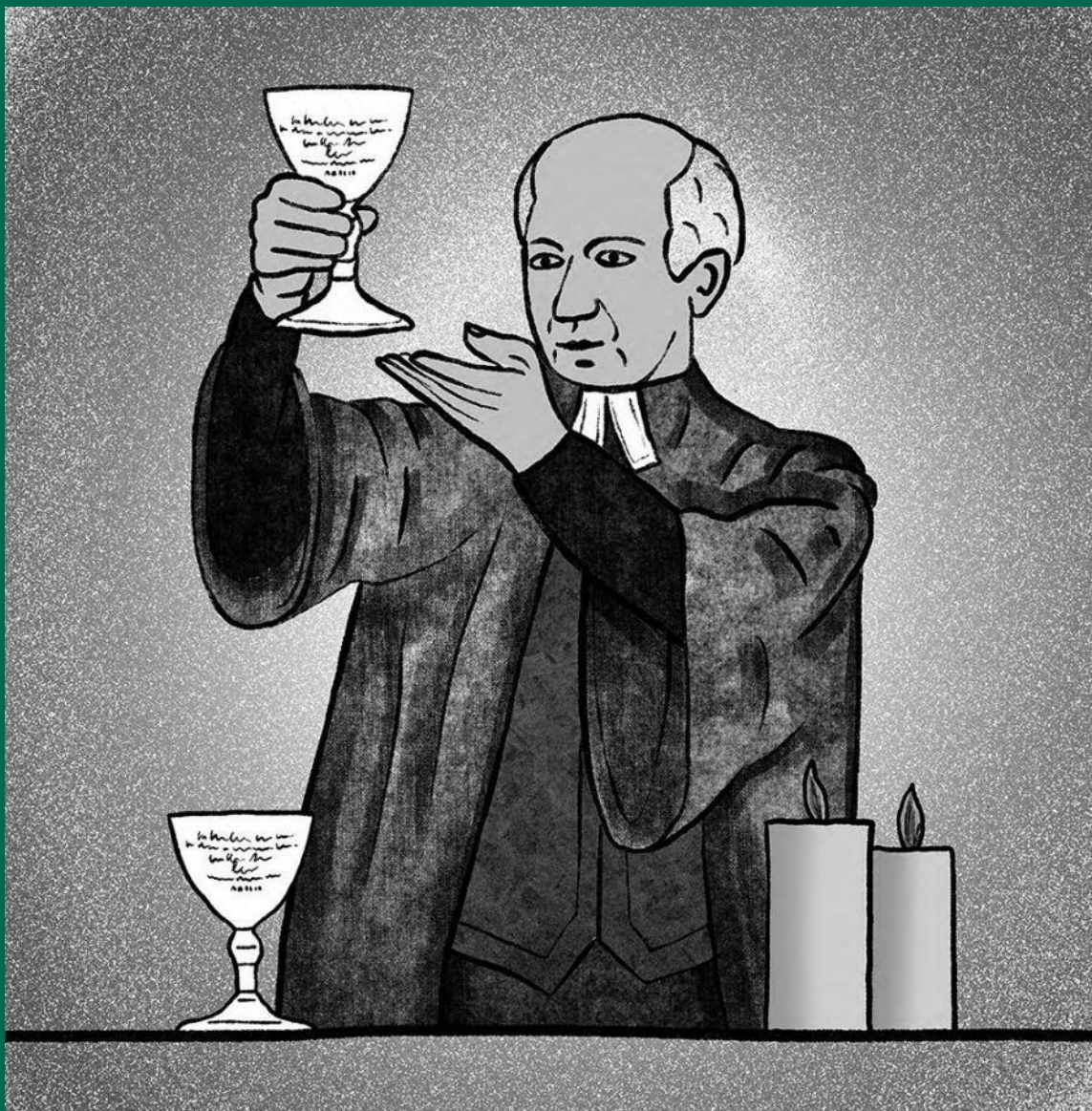
What can you see? How would you describe the objects?

What are they made from?

What do you think they might have been used for?

What are they?





What are these objects?

- Two silver communion cups, originally part of a set of four.
- Made around 1794.
- Commissioned from an Edinburgh silversmith.
- Gifted to Kilmadock Parish Church in Doune, Stirlingshire, by William 'King' Mitchell - a Scot who owned many enslaved people on his plantations in Jamaica.

Please use the **Scotland and the Caribbean** resource sheet (page 4) for further information.



The Latin engraving on the cups can be translated as follows:

‘For the use of Kilmadock Church this cup is given by William Mitchell, gentleman, as evidence of a mark of respect for his birthplace, AD 1794’.

Discussion questions

Please use the **Scotland and the Caribbean** resource sheet (pages 4) for further information to support your discussions.



What material was used to make the communion cups?

What does this tell us about William Mitchell, the man who gifted them to the church?



What does the Latin inscription tell you about their donor?

Why do you think William Mitchell commissioned and donated these silver communion cups to the church?



Why do you think William Mitchell was given the nickname 'King Mitchell' in Jamaica?

Research

Research the biography of William Mitchell.

How does his life story help us understand Scotland's involvement in the Atlantic slave trade?



End of presentation



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The next slides contain the following additional materials to support classroom learning:

- Higher resolution images of the key objects

