Using the ***Lancaster Quakers & the Enslaving Economy*** History Cards

This document accompanies the history cards, ***Lancaster Quakers & the Enslaving Economy, and The Lancaster Story - For Young Readers****. Instructions for using the cards for young people start on page 4.*

Workshop Activity: Building the Lancaster History Timeline

Using the Lancaster Quakers & the Enslaving Economy History Cards

Purpose

This activity helps participants explore how historical events, economic interests, laws, institutions, and individual actions shaped Lancaster's connection to the enslaving economy. By working together to organise the cards, participants can identify patterns, connections, and moments where people and communities faced moral choices.

Part 1: Create Your History Timeline

Set-up

On a large sheet of paper, create four horizontal rows labelled:

- People of Courage
- Trade and Wealth
- Injustice and Harm
- Change and Legacy

You will receive a set of history cards covering different periods of Lancaster's history.

Step 1: Read and Sort the Cards

As a group:

1. Take turns reading each card aloud.
2. Discuss what the card is about.
3. Place the card in the category that best fits:

- People of Courage
- Trade and Wealth
- Injustice and Harm
- Change and Legacy

4. Arrange the cards in chronological order from earliest to latest within each category.

Remember that some cards could fit into more than one category. Choose the category that feels most important to your group.

Step 2: Make Connections

Once all the cards have been placed:

1. Look across the timeline as a whole.
2. Discuss which events, decisions, or people might be connected.
3. Use markers to draw arrows between related cards.
4. Label arrows with short phrases such as:
    - "led to..."
    - "helped create..."
    - "benefited from..."
    - "challenged..."
    - "resulted in..."

Think about:

- How wealth was created and passed on.
- The relationship between beliefs and actions.
- Who benefited from the enslaving economy.
- Who was harmed or excluded.
- How local events connected to global systems of enslavement and colonialism.

Group Reflection

Discuss:

- What surprised you most?
- What patterns did you notice?
- Were there moments when people could have acted differently?
- How did economic interests influence decisions?
- What role did silence, action, or inaction play in this history?

Pair Active Listening

Work in pairs.

For five minutes, one person shares their thoughts about the activity:

The other person practices active listening by:

- Giving their full attention.
- Not interrupting.
- Listening with curiosity and respect.

Then switch roles.

Final Debrief

As a whole group, share one insight, question, or takeaway from the activity.

Remember: The aim is not to judge people in the past by today's standards, but to better understand how individuals, communities, beliefs, power, and economic systems interacted, and what lessons this history may offer for the present and future.

Young People

Workshop Activity: Uncovering Lancaster Quaker's Past

Using the Lancaster History Cards

Aim

In this activity, you'll work together to explore stories from Lancaster's past. You'll learn about people who made brave choices, how wealth was created, how some people were treated unfairly, and how people worked to bring about change.

There are no right or wrong answers. The goal is to ask questions, share ideas, and think about what we can learn from history.

Part 1: Sort the Story Cards

Set-Up

On a large sheet of paper, draw four sections and label them:

People of Courage

- People who stood up for what they believed was right.

Trade and Wealth

- How people made money through trade and business.

Injustice and Harm

- Times when people were treated unfairly or hurt.

Change and Legacy

- Actions that helped create change and how the past still affects us today.

Your group will receive a set of history cards.

Step 1: Read and Sort

As a group:

1. Take turns reading a card aloud.
2. Talk about what is happening in the story.
3. Decide which section the card belongs in.
4. Place the card in that section.

Remember: Some cards might fit into more than one category. Discuss together and choose the one your group thinks fits best.

Questions to Help You Decide

- Is someone showing courage?
- Is this about making money or building businesses?
- Is someone being treated unfairly?
- Does this event lead to change or teach us something today?

Step 2: Build the Story

Once all the cards have been sorted:

1. Put the cards in date order, from earliest to latest.
2. Look for links between different cards.
3. Use coloured pens to draw arrows between connected cards.

Write words on the arrows such as:

- "led to..."
- "helped create..."
- "changed..."
- "inspired..."
- "made possible..."
- "challenged..."

Think About

- Where did wealth come from?
- Did people's actions always match their beliefs?
- Who benefited from these events?
- Who was harmed?
- How can one decision affect future generations?

Part 2: History Detectives

Choose one card that interests your group.

Discuss:

- What happened?
- Who was involved?
- Who benefited?
- Who might have been affected negatively?
- What questions would you like to ask the people in the story?

Write your ideas on sticky notes next to the card.

Part 3: Thinking Together

Choose one of the following statements and decide whether your group agrees, disagrees, or is unsure.

- "Doing nothing is also a choice."
- "People should be responsible for where their money comes from."
- "It can be difficult to stand up for what is right."
- "History still affects our lives today."

Be ready to explain your reasons.

Pair Listening Activity

Work with a partner.

Speaker

For two minutes, share:

- Something you learned.
- Something that surprised you.
- A question you still have.

Listener

Practice good listening by:

- Looking at the speaker.
- Not interrupting.
- Being curious and respectful.

Then swap roles.

Final Group Reflection

Share one thing with the whole group:

Something new you learned.

A question you are still thinking about.

A lesson that might help people today.

Remember

History is about understanding people, choices, and events from the past. By learning about difficult histories, we can better understand our world and think about how to create a fairer future for everyone.