

THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE- HISTORY

WHAT IS A SLAVE?

A **slave** is someone who is forced to work for someone else and is owned by a master. Although slavery is often associated with the United States, slavery did not begin in America. It has been around for a long time, dating all the way back to Biblical times. The Bible discusses people being captured and enslaved during wars. Early slaves were often house servants to their masters. Women were taken more frequently than men and made into slaves.

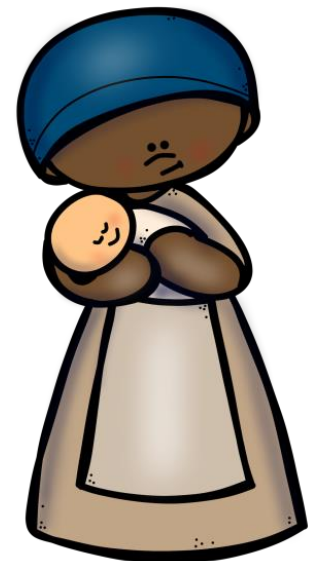


ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Signs of slavery have been found as far back in history as 3000 BC in Mesopotamia. China had slaves in 206 BC and the early Greeks and Romans forced slaves to work for them. The early writings of the Sumerians, Babylonians, and Egyptians describe and defend slavery. Tribes in Africa used their captives as slaves. Many different nationalities and cultures have owned slaves and been enslaved throughout history. Enslave people were typically people who had been captured during warfare, were criminals, or people who were unable to pay back their debts.

EVOLUTION OF SLAVERY

Traditionally, slaves were able to earn or be given freedom. Free people and slaves were typically allowed to marry one another, but this changed over time. New lands were discovered and need cultivation. Slave labor was much cheaper than hired labor. Many natives in the New World were wiped out by disease, so the market for slaves started to grow. Children who were born to slaves became slaves too. Eventually a complex trade system for slaves was created.



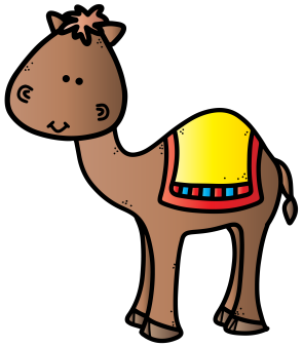
Name _____

Transatlantic Slave Trade- History



1. What ancient civilization was found to have signs of slavery dating back to 3000 BC?
2. What is the definition of a slave?
3. What book often describes people being captured and enslaved during wars?
4. What type of people were typically enslaved in ancient civilizations?
5. With which nation is slavery often associated?
6. Why did people prefer slave labor?
7. What happened to children whose parents were slaves?
8. Why was there an increase in slave labor over time?

THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



EARLY SYSTEMS

A system for trading slaves was created in many places. A slave trade was conducted up and down the Nile River in Africa at one point. Camels were brought to northern Africa from Arabia, allowing slave traders to establish routes through the Sahara Desert. Slaves were traded for perfumes, cloth, and spices, products that were rare in western Africa at the time.

SLAVE COAST

The west coast of Africa was known as the Slave Coast. Europeans and powerful African kings traded with one another. Portugal, Spain, France, and England all wanted to be part of the slave trade during the 1500s. England had a strong navy that helped them gain control of slave trading in the Atlantic Ocean.



NEED FOR LABOR

The New World was explored during the late 1400s by Spain and Portugal. These nations tried to enslave the “Indians” they found in this part of the world, but they were not immune to the diseases Europeans brought with them. Many entire tribes were wiped out by disease. Europeans found the New World was conducive to growing sugar, but was extremely hard work leading to many natives dying from exhaustion. As a result, the need for new workers increased. Europeans traded for slaves from the jungles of Africa to work in the Caribbean Islands on the sugar plantations to replace the “Indians.”

TRIANGULAR TRADE

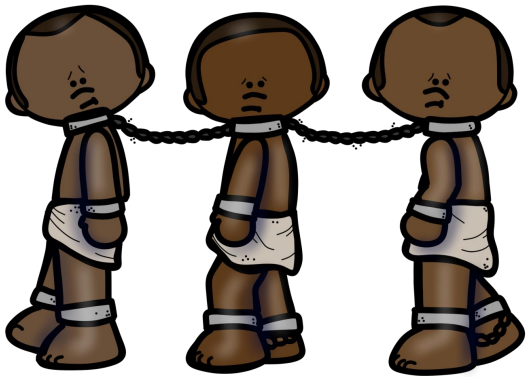
Europeans continued to move farther inland in the New World, increasing the need for more slave labor. The Spanish and Portuguese found countries in present-day Brazil and Central America and the English took control of the trade routes to the north. A trade route that resembled a triangle by the mid-1600s was created by the English. The Treaty of Utrecht of 1713 gave the British the right to sell slaves.

SLAVE TRADE

Before long, a prosperous slave trade developed. European countries were equipped with fleets of merchant ships. They sailed from Europe to Africa, to the Americas, and then back to Europe. During the first part of the journey, ships carried goods like guns, fabrics, and alcohol from Europe to Africa. Once they reached Africa, the goods were traded for slaves. The slaves the ships picked up were captured in Africa. Some were obtained in tribal wars, and others during raids. They were kept in “slave factories” along the west coast of Africa until the ships arrived.

MIDDLE PASSAGE

The voyage across the Atlantic was called the Middle Passage. Hundreds of slaves were chained together by their hands and feet to prevent mutiny. They were kept in the bottom of the ship, often becoming ill from not having enough fresh air to breathe. Many died during the voyage that lasted anywhere from 25 to 60 days. Meals of rice, corn, or beans were provided twice a day and slaves were only given a pint of water with each meal. Living conditions on the slave ships were filthy and filled with human waste, so disease spread quickly.



DESTINATIONS

When the ships reached the Americas, the slaves who survived were delivered to plantations where they were sold for products to take back to Europe. Slaves were sold to the United States, South America, Cuba, the West Indies, and other islands. No matter where their destination, slaves faced a lifetime of hard work and harsh treatment.

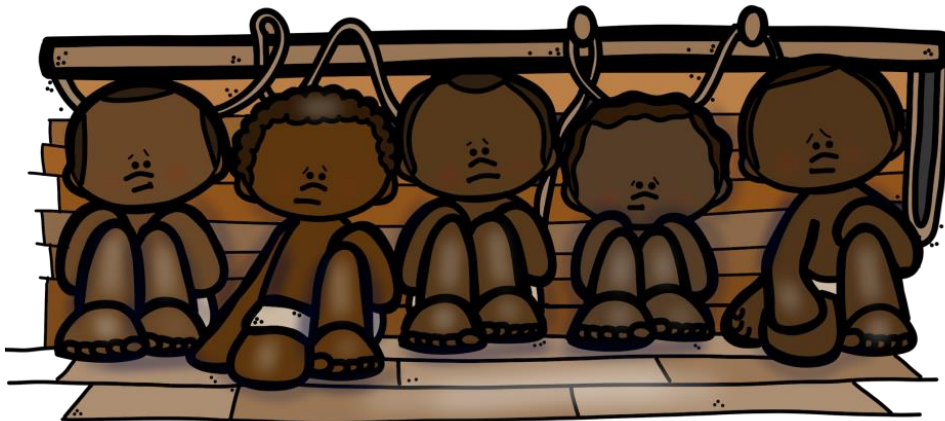
ITEMS TRADED

When slaves were removed from the ships, they were reloaded with crops from plantations. The main products were cotton, tobacco, and sugar. After loading the ships, they went back over the Atlantic Ocean carrying their new cargo back to Europe. Once the ships reached the European ports, the goods from the plantations were sold to European buyers, completing the three-way trade.



IMPACT

European countries became wealthy from the slave trade, even though many people disagreed with the idea of slavery. People seemed to be willing to look the other way as long as the slave trade was profitable. There were some groups, like Quakers, who stirred up opposition to the slave trade. A few Parliament leaders in England, like William Wilberforce, also worked to abolish the slave trade. Eventually it was put to an end in 1853, but not before an estimated 12 million slaves were brought to the Americas.



Name _____

The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Matching: Match each term with its description.

1. _____ England	A. Voyage from Africa to the Americas on a slave ship across the Atlantic Ocean
2. _____ Camel	B. Along with sugar and tobacco, these were the main crops exported from the Americas
3. _____ Slave Factories	C. The introduction of this animal led to slave routes through the Sahara Desert
4. _____ Quakers	D. Europeans traded with these powerful men for slaves
5. _____ Middle Passage	E. Religious group who opposed slavery
6. _____ Slave Coast	F. Many of the natives of the Americas were killed by these, leading to the need for slaves
7. _____ African Kings	G. This nation's strong navy helped them gain control of the Atlantic slave trade
8. _____ Disease	H. Working on this type of plantation was extremely difficult, causing many slave deaths
9. _____ Sugar	I. Slaves were held here while waiting on the slave ships to arrive
10. _____ Cotton	J. The western coast of Africa, where many slaves boarded ships to the Americas

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer.

11. What is the main reason England gained control of the slave trade in the Atlantic Ocean?
- A. They were the only ones with ships.
 - B. They were the most powerful nation in Europe at the time.
 - C. They had a strong navy, which helped them gain control.
 - D. They were the only ones involved in the slave trade.
12. Which two nations were the first to explore the New World during the 1400s?
- A. Spain & Portugal
 - B. England & Spain
 - C. England & Portugal
 - D. Spain & France
13. Which products were picked up in the Americas and taken to Europe in the Transatlantic Slave Trade?
- A. Cotton, Guns, and Alcohol
 - B. Guns, Tobacco, and Coal
 - C. Fabrics, Slaves, and Sugar
 - D. Sugar, Tobacco, and Cotton
14. Which of the following accurately describes the triangular trade?
- A. Slaves were picked up in the Caribbean and transported to Europe.
 - B. Manufactured goods were taken to Africa from Europe.
 - C. Slaves were picked up in Europe and taken to Africa.
 - D. Slaves were treated well during the Middle Passage.
15. Around how many slaves were transported during the Transatlantic Slave Trade?
- A. 100,000
 - B. 1 million
 - C. 12 million
 - D. 20 million



Short Answer: Answer each question.

16. How did the early slave trade in Africa lead to the Transatlantic Slave Trade?

17. Why was additional cheap labor needed in the Americas during the 1400 and 1500s?

18. Why did the author put the word Indians in quotes in the article?

19. Name two goods taken to Africa from Europe to trade for slaves.

20. Name three adjectives that describe the Middle Passage.

21. Why was the Transatlantic Slave Trade also known as Triangular Trade?

22. Why did many people continue to accept slavery, even though it was morally wrong?

Name _____


The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Charlestown, July 24th, 1769.

TO BE SOLD,

On THURSDAY the third Day
of AUGUST next,

A CARGO
OF
NINETY-FOUR
PRIME, HEALTHY



NEGROES,

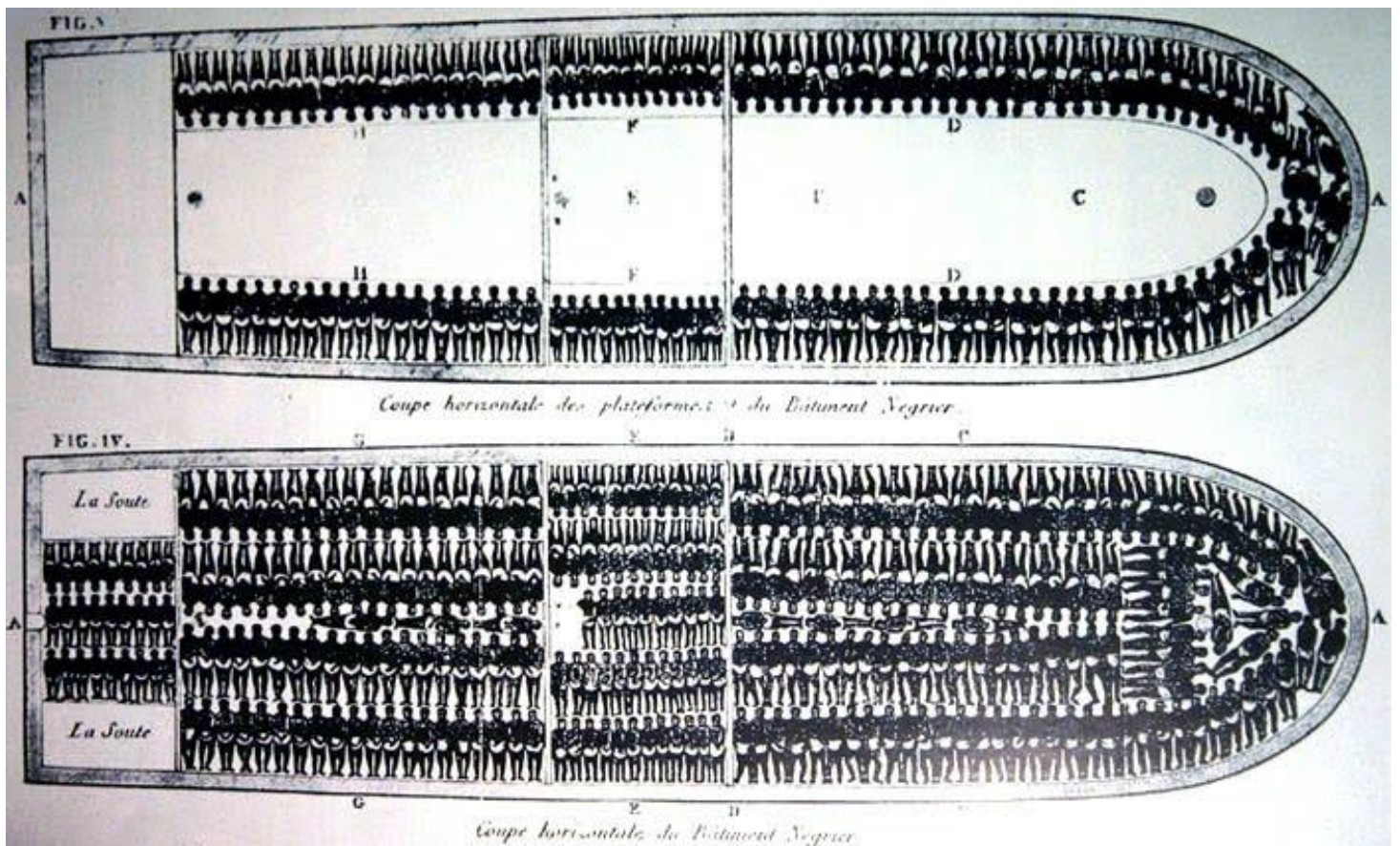
CONSISTING OF

Thirty-nine MEN, Fifteen BOYS,
Twenty-four WOMEN, and
Sixteen GIRLS.

JUST ARRIVED,
In the Brigantine *DEMBIA*, *Francis Bare*, Master, from SIERRA-
LEON, by
DAVID & JOHN DEAS.

1. What is the purpose of this document?
 - A. To end slavery
 - B. To convince people slavery is acceptable
 - C. To make people aware that a slave ship will be arriving
 - D. To explain the types of slaves used in America
2. How many slaves were to be sold in total?
 - A. 39
 - B. 15
 - C. 24
 - D. 94
3. From which nation did the slaves come?
 - A. Dembria
 - B. Sierra Leon
 - C. Deas
 - D. America

4. What is the most likely reason the largest number of slaves being sold were men?
 - A. They were the easiest to catch.
 - B. They were the weakest.
 - C. They were the most desired.
 - D. There were more men around



5. What type of document is presented?

- A. Advertisement
- B. Diagram
- C. Photograph
- D. Letter

6. What is the purpose of this document?

- A. To persuade people to support slavery.
- B. To persuade people to end slavery.
- C. To show how slaves were packed into slave ships.
- D. To explain how slaves got sick during the Middle Passage.

7. What is the most likely reason slaves were packed onto ships like this?

- A. To give them as little room as possible.
- B. To kill them during the Middle Passage.
- C. They were not seen as humans.
- D. They could transport more slaves, ending in more profit.



8. Which of the following items was NOT taken from the Americas to Europe, according to the map?

- A. Tobacco
- B. Cotton
- C. Sugar
- D. Textiles

9. Which of the following is NOT an accurate statement, based off the map?

- A. Raw materials were taken to the Americas and turned into manufactured goods and textiles in Europe.
- B. Slaves were taken from Africa and used in the America for labor.
- C. Slaves were taken from the Americas to be used in Europe's factories.
- D. Textiles, rum, and manufactured goods were traded for slaves in Africa.



10. Which event is illustrated above?
- A. Slaves being taken from their homes.
 - B. Slaves working on a plantation.
 - C. Slaves being sold at an auction.
 - D. A slave wedding.
11. How do most of the plantation owners (in top hats) seem in the illustration?
- A. Interested in the slaves being offered
 - B. Disinterested in the slaves being offered
 - C. Eager to buy the slaves being offered
 - D. Upset by the slaves that are offered
12. Which of the following is NOT a reason the buyers saw nothing wrong with what they were doing?
- A. They saw the slaves as property.
 - B. Slavery was an accepted practice at the time.
 - C. They were making a profit off of slaves.
 - D. Abolitionists had not started fighting for an end to slavery yet.