

From Africa to Emancipation.



What was West Africa like in the 18th century?



Discover: two contrasting views about West Africa **Explore:** which of these views is most accurate **Skills:** source investigation and enquiry.

'I was born in Africa in a charming fruitful valley. My father was one of the Chiefs. We are a nation of dancers, musicians and poets. Our lifestyle is simple, our luxuries few. Before we taste food we always wash our hands. At all times our cleanliness is extreme. We have no strong or alcoholic drink. Our houses are always built neatly and thatched with reeds. The whole neighbourhood helps build them and in return get, and expect nothing more than a feast (food) in return. Our wants are few and land rich and fruitful and produces all kinds of vegetables. Everyone contributes and we know no laziness. Our women are graceful, modest and cheerful.'

**Olaudah Equiano, an interesting narrative 1789. He was a former slave living in England.
There is evidence he was actually born in the USA.**

This was the time of Ceddo. Powerful African rulers who kept armies of slaves. They used these armies to attack other tribes or kingdoms, capturing more slaves who they would sell to the Dutch, French and British. They had to sell slaves to help them buy guns to defend themselves from attack. This he describes as the vicious circle. Next came the age of the Marabout when people in West Africa, led by Muslim leaders, rose up and killed or drove out the Ceddo rulers. Once in power the Marabout leaders declared holy war and attacked and enslaved those Africans who were not Muslims. Also during this time, Africa was hit by natural disasters: droughts, failed harvest and locust swarms and many Africans had no choice but to offer themselves as slaves. By the end of the century over half the people in Senegambia were slaves. African slaves owners preferred women slaves who could have babies and grow corn. The European slave traders preferred men who could be used to work in the New World. Boubacar Barry described the Senegambia as a 'bottomless reservoir' feeding the New World with slave labour'

In his book, 'Senegambia', Historian Boubacar Barry describes a very different West Africa.

Q1: Which description of West Africa do you believe, Equiano's or the historians? (Explain)

Q2: Who was more to blame for the slave trade, the Africans or the Europeans? (Explain)

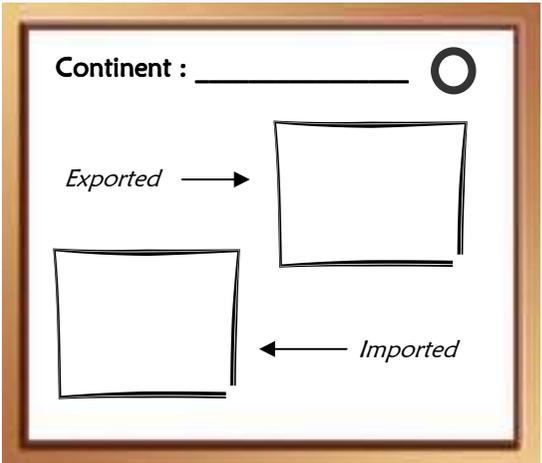
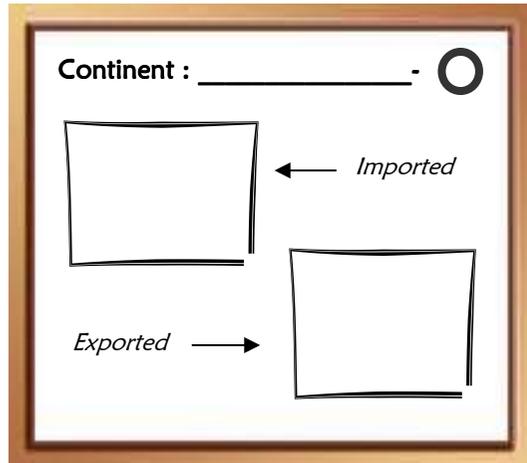
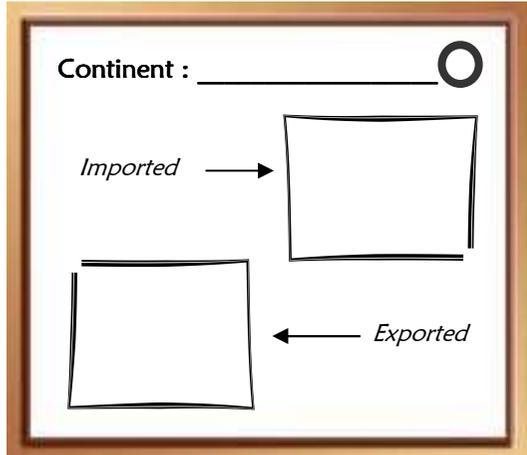
Q3: Circle which is correct: 1: Africa, 'a paradise lost'.
2: Africa, 'a living hell'.



The Slave Triangle



Discover: what triangular trade was Explore: what moved from place to place.



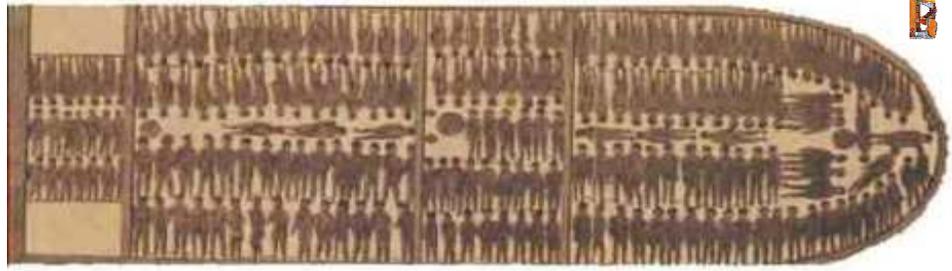
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What happened during the 'Middle Passage' ?

Discover: the conditions on board the slave ships **Explore:** reasons for these conditions **Skill:** source analysis and investigation.

The voyage from Africa to the Americas took between 6 and 8 weeks. The enslaved Africans were chained together by the hand and the foot, and packed into the smallest places where there was barely enough room to lie on one's side. It was here that they ate, slept, urinated, defecated, gave birth, went insane and died. They had no idea where they were going, or what was going to happen to them. Slaves were usually fed once or twice a day. To prevent muscle wastage slaves would be brought up on deck and told to jump up and down in their chains. Those who refused to 'dance' were whipped. It has been estimated that between 9-11 million people were taken from Africa by European traders and landed alive on the other side of the Atlantic. The average loss was 1 out of 8 of all slaves and it can be estimated that a further 1½ million Africans still lay at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean between Africa and the Americas.

 www.recoveredhistories.org/



(after being put on the ship) *'...I found some of my own nation (people), which in a small degree gave ease to my mind. I asked what was to be done with us; they gave me to understand we were to be carried to these white people's country to work for them. I thought, if it were no worse than working, my situation was not so desperate (bad) : but still I feared I should be put to death, the white people looked and acted, so savage in manner. The filth (dirt) of the necessary tubs (toilets), into which the children often fell, and were almost suffocated. The shrieks (screams) of the women, and the groans of the dying, made the whole a scene of horror almost inconceivable.'*

The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano. 1789. Olaudah claims to have been born in Africa, and was transported on the slave ships. However, recently some have questioned his account and suggest he was actually born in the USA.

'The opinion that the number of slaves were said to be crowded in them is groundless (untrue). On the voyage from Africa to the West Indies, the Negroes are well fed, comfortable and have every attention paid to their health, cleanliness and convenience. When upon deck they amused themselves with dancing. In short, the voyage from Africa to the West Indies was one of the happiest periods of a negro's life.'

In 1778 British Members of Parliament met to talk about the conditions on board the slave ships. Slave trader Robert Norris was called to give his views.

6 June 1770

"The slaves made an insurrection (rebellion) which was soon quelled (stopped) with the loss of two women."

23 June 1770

"Died a girl slave, No. 13. The slaves attempted an insurrection, lost a man who jumped over board and was drown'd. Employed securing the men in chains and gave the women concerned 24 lashes each."

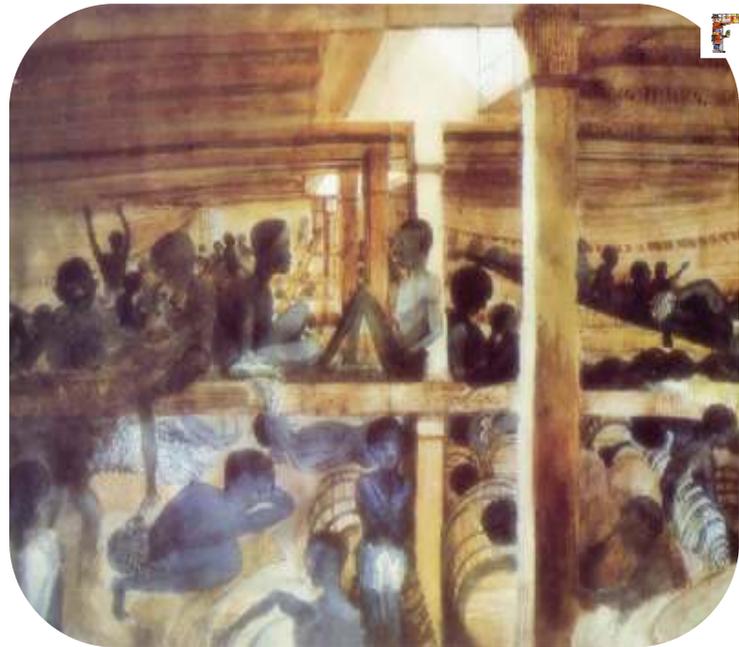
26 June 1770

"The slaves this day proposed making an insurrection and a few of them got off their handcuffs but were detected (seen) in time."

27 June 1770

"The slaves attempted to escape from the hold in the night with a design to murder the whites or drown themselves, but were stopped by the watch. In the morning they confessed their intention and the women as well as the men were determined to jump overboard but in case of being prevented by their irons were resolved as their last resource to burn the ship. Their obstinacy (actions) put me under the necessity of shooting the leader."

Ship's log recorded by Captain Robert Norris of the Liverpool slave trading ship the 'Unity'.



How reliable is source D ?

Reasons it may be reliable

P1:

P2:

Reasons it may not be reliable

P1:

P2:

Mostly reliable Mostly unreliable

How far does source A support C ?

Points of support or corroboration

P1:

P2:

Points not supported or corroborated

P1:

P2:

Mostly supports Does not support

Which source is more useful B or F ?

Reasons B is useful

P1:

P2:

Reasons F is useful

P1:

P2:

B is most useful F is most useful

Quick Fire Questions

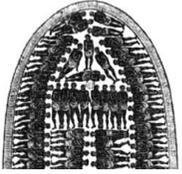
How many slaves died according to source E?

How many slaves can you count in B ?

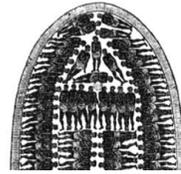
The most reliable source =

The least reliable source =

What Was it Like Onboard A Slave Ship?



Discover: what Dr Falconbridge witnessed on the voyage **Explore:** how he felt about this **Skill:** using empathy.



Match Dr Falconbridge's original statements with the simplified statements underneath.

'Morning inspections frequently find dead negros and living negros fastened together. The dead are then thrown to the sharks'

A

There were no toilets on the boats and trying to use the buckets would cause fights.



'Those furthest away from the buckets in trying to get to them tumble over their companions on account of being shackled. This leads to a great many quarrels'

B

The movement of the sea rocked the boat and this caused the slaves' skin to rub off on the hard wood.



'The floor was so covered in the blood, vomit and mucus which had come from them because of the flux, that it resembled a slaughter-house'

C

Slaves who were on hunger strike were forced to eat.



'They frequently have their skin and even flesh completely rubbed off on their hips, knees and elbows by the motion of the boat.'

D

Slave women were raped by both sailors and officers.



'The common sailors are allowed to have sex with such of the black women, the officers indulge their passions'

E

The slaves had to lay in human waste.



"Upon negroes refusing sustenance I have seen coals of fire, put on shovels and place so near their lips as to burn them"

F

The slaves could not move position because the boat was crowded.



'The poor fellows stowed so close to admit no other positions than lying on their sides.....less room than a man in his coffin'

G

Living slaves would be left chained to the dead ones in during the night.



An abolitionist interviews the ship's physician Dr Falconbridge.



Q- Hello Dr Falconbridge, what are your thoughts about the conditions in which slaves are kept on the ships, and do you agree with slave trade?

A: _____

Q- Dr Falconbridge, what was the worst thing you saw during the voyage?

A: _____

Q- Dr Falconbridge, can you describe the smell inside the ship's hold and what caused the smell?

A: _____

Q- Dr Falconbridge, can you tell me the reasons you chose to work on this ship, because unlike the slaves, you clearly had a choice?

A: _____

Q- There was something else I wanted to ask you _____

A: _____

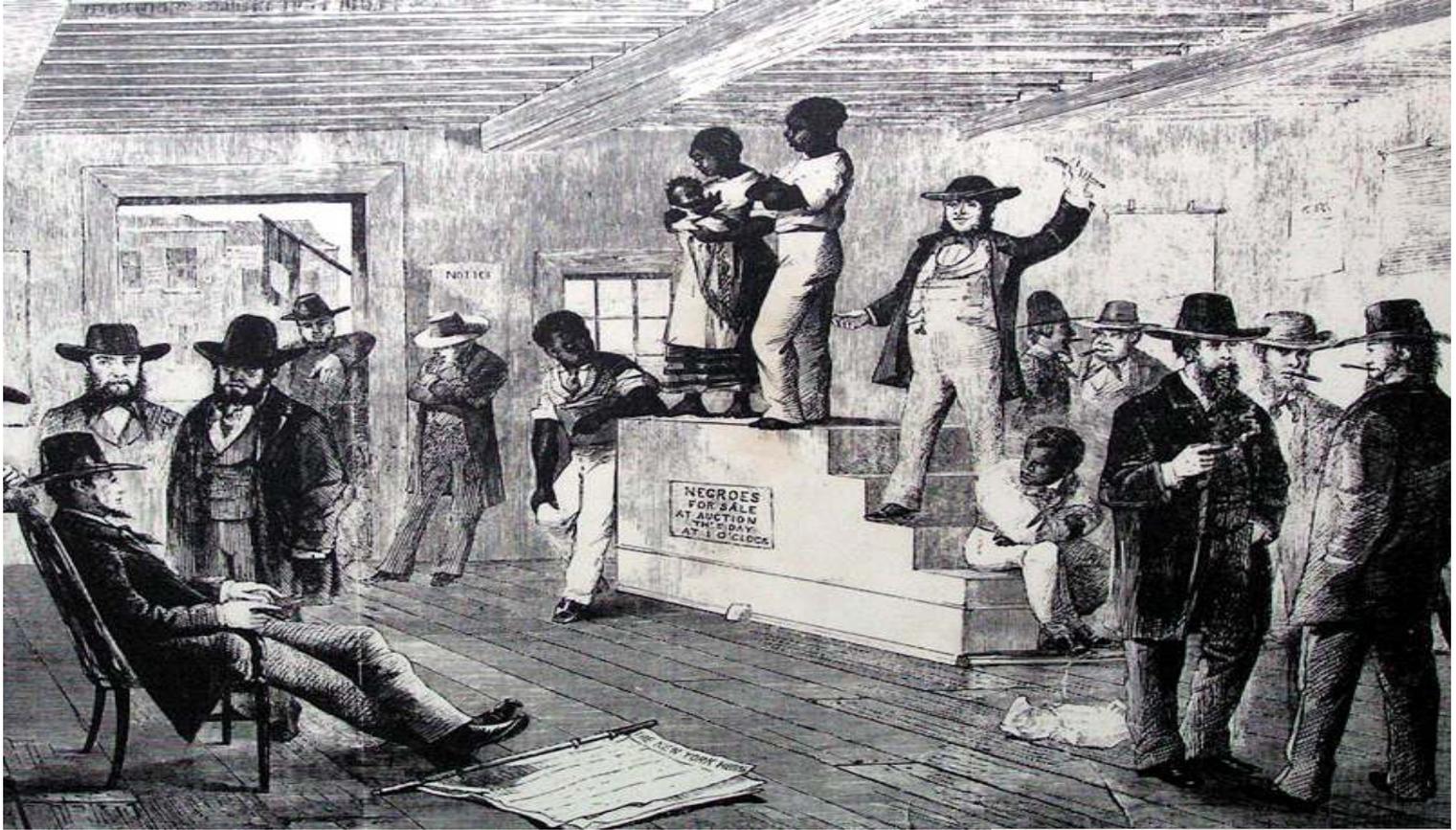
Q- Finally, Dr Falconbridge, just one more question: _____

A: _____

The Slave Markets

Discover: how slaves were sold **Explore:** how slaves may have felt during an auction **Skills:** empathy + making predictions.

If they survived the journey on the slave ships and made it to the Americas, captured Africans would most likely be sold at a slave auction. Before being sold they were washed and cleaned and fats and oils were rubbed into their skin. Hot tar was rubbed into any sores or wounds. There is evidence that some slaves who suffered from dysentery (diarrhea) had rope pushed up their backsides to block it for awhile. Why do you think these things happened?



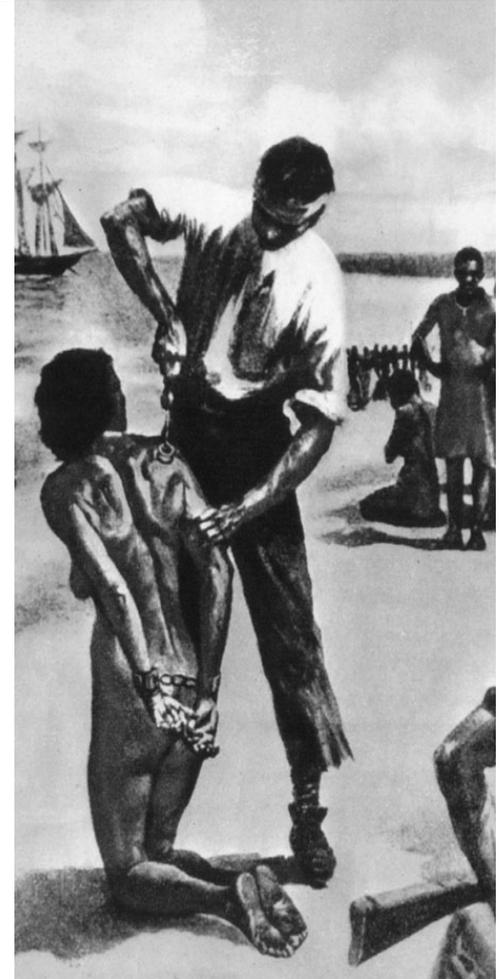
A Slave's Story

An account by former slave William Bells Brown, 1848.

'I shall never forget a scene which took place in the city of St. Louis, while I was in slavery. A man and his wife, both slaves, were brought from the country to the city, for sale. The man was first put up, and sold to the highest bidder. The wife was next. My eyes were intensely fixed on the face of the woman, whose cheeks were wet with tears. But a conversation between her husband and his new master attracted my attention. I drew near them to listen. The slave was begging his new master to purchase his wife. Said he, "Master, if you will only buy Fanny, I know you will get the worth of your money. She is a good cook, a good washer, and her last owner liked her very much. If you will only buy her how happy I shall be." The new master replied that he did not want her but if she sold cheap he would purchase her. I watched the countenance of the man while the different persons were bidding on his wife. When his new master bid on his wife you could see the smile upon his face, and the tears stop; but as soon as another would bid, you could see his change and the tears start afresh'.

Create an ending to the account of William Bells Brown

What do you think is happening in the picture to the right?



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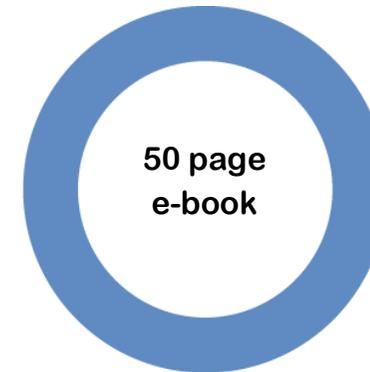
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Runaways and
Rebellions

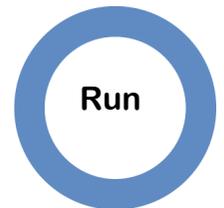


Timelines and Review

Plan
your
escape

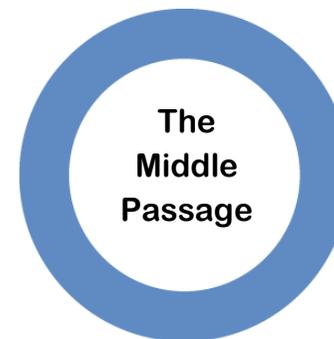


Nat Turner's
Revolt



Investigation
Lincoln, the Great
Emancipator?

Life in Africa



A Day in the Life.

