

Unit 4, Lesson 4: The Middle Passage

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, students will learn about the Middle Passage as well as some of its effects.

Delaware Standard(s)

- **History Standard 1a, 4-5 [Chronology]:** Students will study historical events and persons within a given time frame in order to create a chronology and identify related cause-effect factors.

Big Ideas

- chronology, causes and effects

Essential Questions

- What was the “Middle Passage” and its effects?

Enduring Understandings

Students will learn that the Middle Passage involved the forced removal of Africans from their homeland - an event that traumatized enslaved victims, harmed areas of Africa from which people were enslaved, and helped build the emerging economies of the British colonies and eventually of the United States.

Resources

- [Resource 1: Warm-Up](#)
- [Resource 2: The Middle Passage](#)
- [Resource 3: Checks for Understanding](#)

Procedures

1. **Warm Up:** Project or distribute copies of the image on [Resource 1: Warm-Up](#). Ask students to try to figure out what it illustrates?
2. **Introduce the Lesson:** Tell students that they are going to learn about something called the “Middle Passage” - one of the most horrible things that has ever happened in human history.
3. **Reading:** [Resource 2: The Middle Passage Reading](#)
4. **Video Enhancement or Substitute**
 - a. **Important - All or parts of this video may not be appropriate for some groups. Teachers must preview this video, and use their professional judgment and discretion before deciding whether or how to show it.**
 - i. Excellent 5 minute YouTube video entitled “*Life Aboard a Slave Ship*” about the Middle Passage [here](#) but it shows images of nude people, includes description of violence and violent scenes...including sexual (briefly) at around the 2:38-2:49 digital marks.

5. **Checks for Understanding:** Distribute copies of [Resource 3: Checks for Understanding](#). Have students complete the checks then review correct responses.

NOTE: some 4th grade teachers who reviewed the lesson recommended that teachers lead students in a reflection rather than doing the checks for understanding. We leave this decision to the professional judgment of educators.

Teacher Resource (Answer Key)

Task 1

Happened 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iron, liquor, and guns were brought to Africa
Happened Next	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enslaved Africans were brought to America
Happened Last	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sugar, tobacco, and good were brought to Europe

Task 2

Causes	Effects
1. Africans got rich by selling their prisoners of war	E
2. Europeans demanded more slaves	A
3. million Africans were kidnapped and taken out of Africa	C D
4. millions of Africans were enslaved in America	F
5. some African leaders ordered Europeans to leave	B
6. the Middle Passage was terrible	G