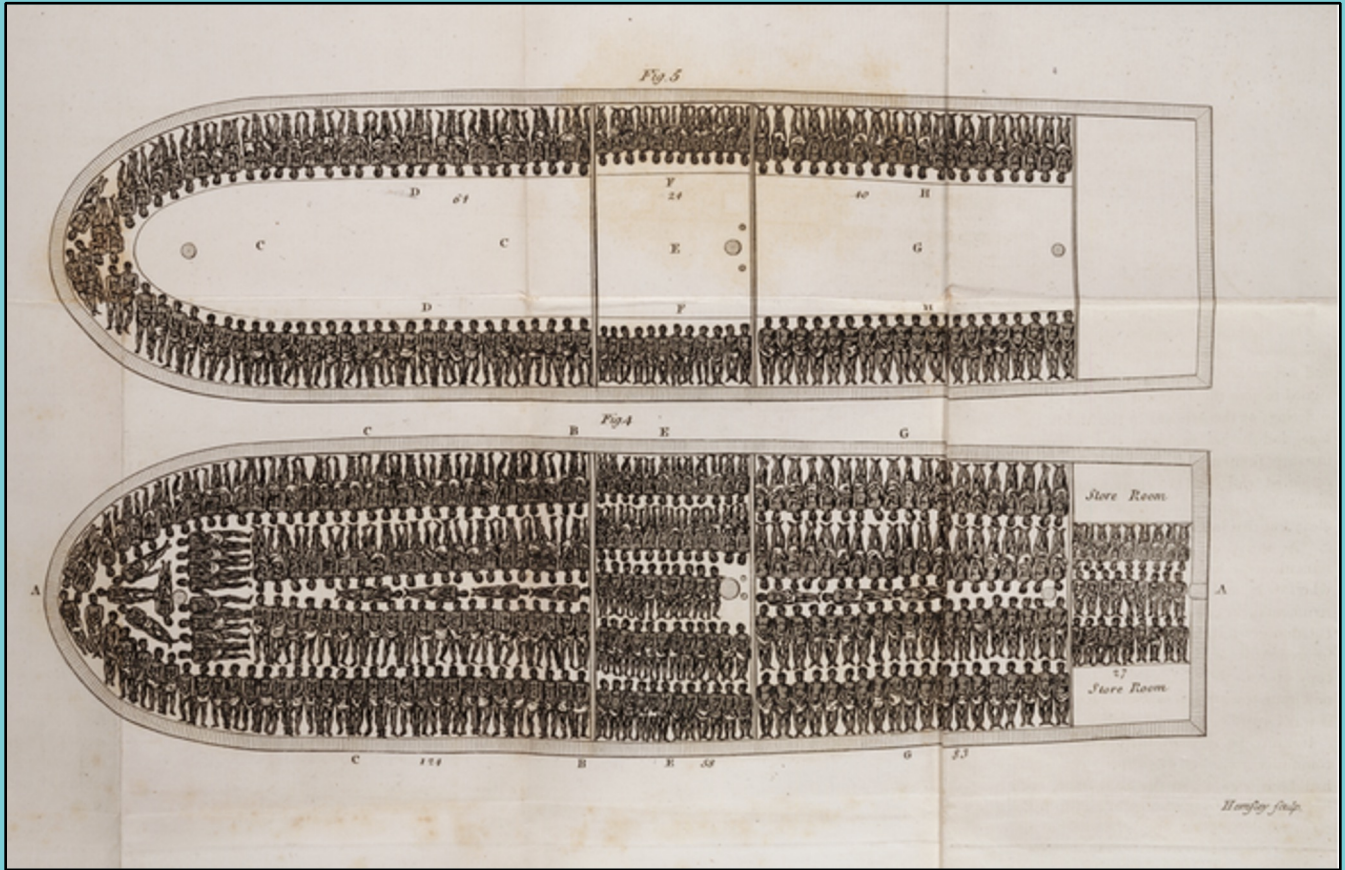




Unit 4, Lesson 4
The Middle Passage

What do you think this illustrates?



You all are going to learn about
something called the
“Middle Passage”

*~one of the most horrible things
that has ever happened in
human history.*

Resource 2: The Middle Passage

The term Atlantic Slave Trade is used to describe the movement of people across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa to the New World (America). From 1526 to 1867, some 12.5 million human beings were taken from their homes in Africa and forcibly moved to America where they were enslaved. Approximately 10.7 million of those people arrived in the Americas. That means that nearly 2 million people did not survive the voyage.

More than 9 out of every 10 enslaved Africans were taken to places south of the present day United States. Only about 6 percent of African captives were sent directly to British North America.

Africans carried to North America, including the Caribbean, left mainly from West Africa. The map above shows the areas in Africa from which people were taken. It also shows the approximate number of people who were taken from those areas.



Did the Horror of Enslavement Begin in America?

No. Once they were captured or kidnapped in Africa, many of the victims had to travel great distances from the inner parts of Africa to the coast. When they arrived at the coast, they had to wait for weeks, months, sometimes as long as a year, crowded together in places that were like jails along Africa's western coast. The photo to the right is



Goree Island - one of those places off the coast of Senegal where enslaved people had to wait until their slave ships left for America.

The journey from the inner parts of Africa to the coast was dangerous for many people. Historians



arrows on the map showing the flow of trade form a sort of triangle?

What was the Middle Passage Like?

The Middle Passage was horrible for the African victims. The enslaved Africans boarding the ship had no idea what lay ahead. Those who had already made the Middle Passage to the New World were not able to return to their homeland and tell others what happened to those people who were captured or kidnapped.

So, what were they to believe? More than a few thought that the Europeans were cannibals. Olaudah Equiano, an African captured as a boy who later wrote an autobiography, recalled . . .

When I looked round the ship and saw a large furnace of copper boiling, and many black people of every description chained together, every one of their faces showing dejection and sorrow, I no longer doubted of my fate and was overpowered with feelings of horror and anguish, I fell motionless on the deck and fainted...I asked if we were not to be eaten men...?"

were taken from their homes in Africa and marched em did not survive that journey, let alone the

for those who survived that part of their trek.

?"

t to be taken on the infamous Middle Passage. It is use it was the middle part of a three-part system of voyage that began and ended in Europe.

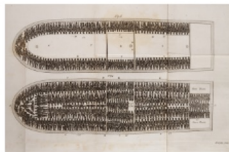
ted in Europe. Goods such as iron, cloth, liquor, ped to Africa's "slave coast" and traded for African

with its human cargo, the "slave ship" set sail for the e traded for sugar, tobacco, cotton, wood, corn or 'his was the

m occurred pe with the rn, and other t were then ade repeated the "triangular the yellow



ere branded with hot irons and ins. Their "living quarters" were of the ship where the enslaved y side. The image to the right :he enslaved people were iddle Passage. It is difficult to ble voyage took approximately alf months!



: without touching someone else. With 300 to 400 people an area with little ventilation and, in some cases, not even buckets for human waste -- disease spread quickly.

"The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, n the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely /most suffocated us. This produced copious perspirations, so ne unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells ess among the slaves, of which many died."

People Respond?

d resistance in response to the abuses.

e terrible conditions and afraid of what might hap

at in the hope that they would start eating to avc of those who experienced the Middle Passage lost their lives.

't work, the enslaved person was force fed with t *eculum orum*, which held the mouth open.

Others jumped overboard. But the enslavers did their best to prevent this. They considered their human cargo too valuable. Slave ships often had nets on the sides of ships to catch jumpers.

Despite the captain's desire to keep as many enslaved people as possible alive, Middle Passage death rates were high. Although it's difficult to determine exactly how many Africans died en route to America, it is now believed that nearly 2 million

Sources:

- [here](#)
- [here](#)
- [here](#)
- [here](#)
- [here](#)

Let's Read



LIFE ON A SLAVE SHIP

H
HISTORY

Optional Video: Life Aboard a Slave Ship

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 to students.

Task 1 - Directions: Write the events listed below in column 2 of the chart below to show the correct order in which the events that were part of the “triangular trade” occurred:

- enslaved Africans were brought to America
- sugar, tobacco, and good were brought to Europe
- iron, liquor, and guns were brought to Africa

Happened 1st	
Happened Next	
Happened Last	

Task 2 - Directions: read the “List of Effects” below. Then, write each effect in Column 2 that would have been caused by the statement in Column 1. You can write more than one effect in each row IF the cause likely had more than one effect.

List of Effects

- African leaders complained to European leaders
- Europeans tried to take over more parts of Africa
- certain areas of Africa remain the poorest
- number of people in Africa in 1800 was half of what it would have been
- Africans fought more wars against other Africans
- economies in America got better
- 2 million Africans died

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

Let's Check for Understanding:

Students, individually complete the worksheet.

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Let's Reflect & Discuss!

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