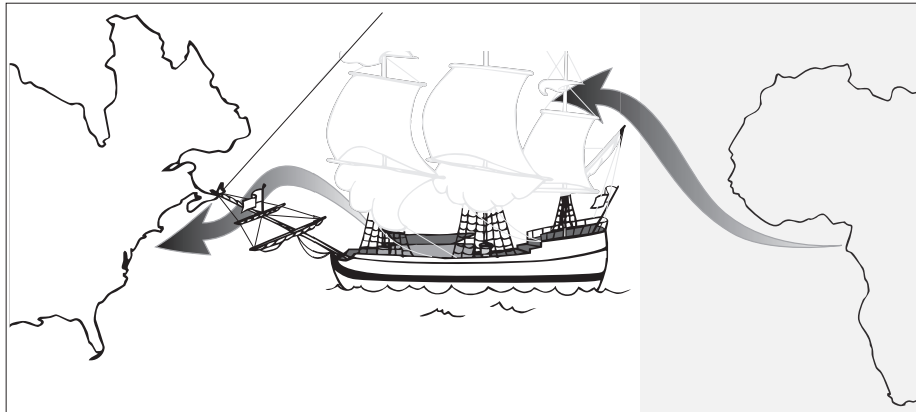


Trading Slaves for Guns in West Africa



Read Section 3. Then answer the questions below.

1. Describe slavery in West Africa in the 1500s.

Some people in West Africa were slaves who had been captured during wars or found guilty of crimes. They had fewer rights, but were still part of the village.

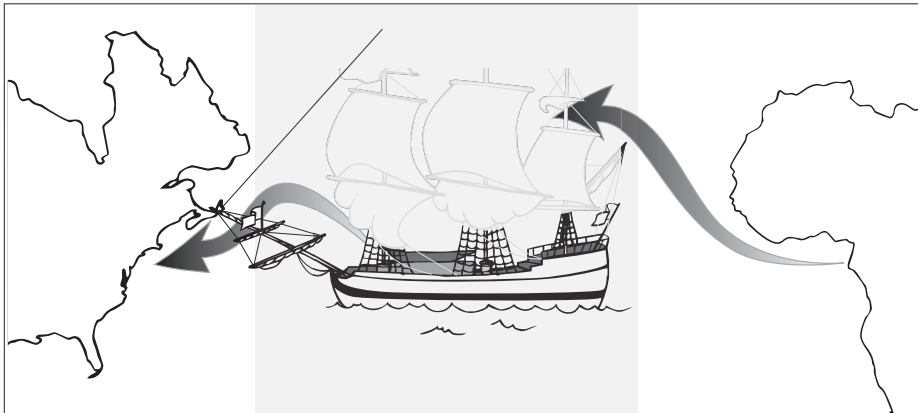
2. Why did European traders come to West Africa? What did they do?

Slave traders came to West Africa to trade cloth, rum, salt, guns, and other goods for slaves. Slaves were needed to work on plantations in the Americas.

Read Section 4. Then list at least three ways in which Africans responded to European slave traders.

- *A few West Africans refused to trade slaves.*
- *Some West Africans tried to find slaves outside their nations or raided other villages for slaves.*
- *Some West Africans traded people who were already enslaved, such as prisoners of war.*
- *Others traded reluctantly because they feared other villages might try to capture them and sell them as slaves.*

Surviving the Middle Passage



Read Section 5. Then answer the questions below.

1. List five words or phrases that describe the Middle Passage.

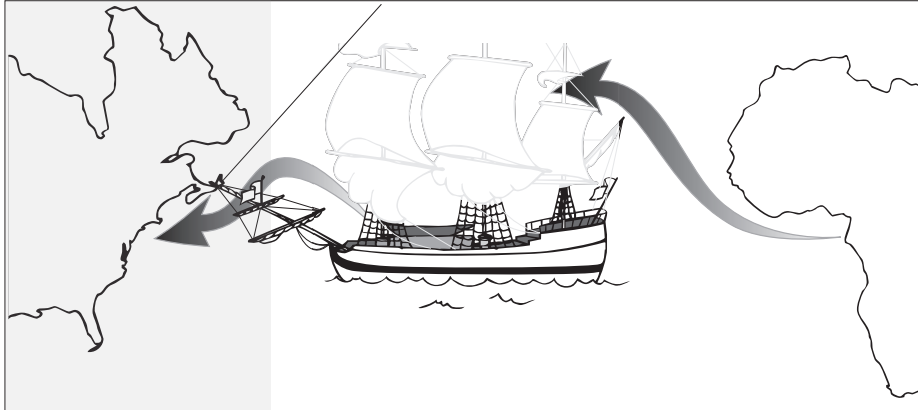
Sample answers: long, chains, no exercise, terrible, hot, lice/fleas/rats, suffering, no room, sick, death, sores, packed together, nightmare, foul smell

2. Explain the triangular trade between Europe, West Africa, and the Americas.

Europeans traded cloth, guns, and other goods for slaves in Africa. Then slaves were taken to the Americas to work on plantations. Finally, traders took American goods like tobacco and sugar to Europe.

Read Section 6. Then list at least three ways in which Africans responded during the Middle Passage.

- *Some slaves tried to kill themselves by refusing to eat or by jumping off the ship.*
- *Some slaves tried to revolt against the crew.*
- *Many slaves tried to maintain enough energy to survive the journey.*

Living as a Slave in the Colonies

Read Section 7. Then answer the questions below.

1. What were two ways in which enslaved Africans were sold?
 - “Scrambles” were public sales where each slave was sold for the same price. Buyers rushed into a pen and chose the slaves they wanted.
 - At slave auctions, slaves stood on a platform one at a time and were sold to the highest bidder.
2. What happened to slaves during their first year in America?
 - Sold and often given new names
 - Shouted at in a new language
 - Given strange tools to use
 - Beaten if they didn’t understand or disobeyed
 - Made to work long hours

Read Section 8. Then list at least three ways in which slaves reacted to their new lives.

- Some slaves tried to run away, but most were caught and punished.
- Some slaves secretly resisted slavery by pretending to be sick, by breaking tools, or by setting buildings on fire.
- Many slaves worked hard and hoped that they would get better treatment.