

"What Really Happened on Those Slave Ships"

Objectives:

- 1) To explain the needs of each of the participatory groups (Europeans, West Africans, and North and South Americans) in the slave trade.
- 2) To analyze the given 1st person accounts in order to determine the quality of conditions during the Middle Passage.
- 3) To understand the points of view of the participants and victims of the slave trade.

Procedures:

1. Students (2 or 3) will be asked to give definitions of the terms: "Triangle Slave Trade" and "Middle Passage". After two or three responses, the teacher will respond to the definitions given and establish the standard definitions the class will use for the terms.
2. Students will be given an outline of notes on the following to fill in as the teacher lectures:
 - a) Reason/Purpose of the slave trade
 - b) Participants and their individual benefits
3. The students will be shown the route used during the 3-point trade on a classroom map. They will be given a 3-hole punched copy of a map on which to illustrate the triangular route. They are expected to:
 - a) use a different color for each "leg" of the route
 - b) complete the blank map key in the lower left hand corner of the map.This map can be placed in their notebooks or displayed on a bulletin board.
4. Divide the class in groups of 3 or 4, which each student receiving a copy of a primary source. Each 1/3 of the class should be given either source #1, #2, or #3.
Source #1: British doctor on slave ship (Alexander Falconbridge)
Source #2: Crew member on slave ship (James Barbot)
Source #3: Former slave (Olaudah Equiano)
Each group will read their source and summarize on the following topics:
 - a) packing of slaves
 - b) conditions below deck
 - c) feeding and exercise
 - d) resistance of slaves
 - e) treatment of women
 - f) reaction of witnesses to conditions
5. After each group has completed their summary, they will present their conclusions to the class. The other students will jot down similarities and differences in the various accounts.
6. Students will write an essay entitled: "What really happened on those slave ships". In the essay, they will thoroughly compare and contrast the narrative accounts of all three sources.

Materials:

- *Copies of sources #1,2 and 3
- *Copies of maps to illustrate the Triangle Trade

Name _____

Date _____

19 Major Trade Routes

