

Atlantic Slave Trade

Notes about the Atlantic Slave Trade

- **West Indies (Americas, Caribbean)** - exported raw materials to Europe
 - Examples: Sugar, cotton, tobacco, rum
- **Europe** - exported manufactured goods to Africa
 - Examples: Guns, cotton cloth, textiles, iron bars, glass and glass beads
- **Africa** - exported slaves to West Indies (Americas)
 - Examples: Men, women and children
- **Middle Passage** - The voyage slaves took from Africa to the Americas.
 - o Packed like sardines, in filthy conditions at least 1 million Africans lost their lives along the Middle Passage.
- **Terrible Transformation** - An estimated 17 million men, women and children were enslaved and transported from Africa to the Americas between the 17th and 19th centuries to a land with a very different culture, a language unrecognizable, and a future unimaginable.

Create

Based on the information above about the Atlantic Slave Trade, record all relevant information that should be included on the attached blank map. In other words, create a visual representation of the Atlantic Slave Trade. The map should provide the necessary information so that anyone can read it and make sense of the main components and important features of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

Analysis

What facts would you select to support the reason historians also refer to the Atlantic Slave Trade as the "Triangular Slave Trade?" Be specific in your response.

Historian Peter Wood coined the phrase "Terrible Transformation" in reference to the middle of the 17th century for Africans in America. Based on the notes and map you created, what conclusions can be reached to explain Peter Wood's rationale for the phrase "Terrible Transformation?" Be specific in your response.

What do you think the world would be like if African rulers did not sell Africans to Europeans?

"Why did African rulers, merchants and other decision makers sell slaves to Europeans when it was so obviously immoral and harmful, is in fact a central problem and one that ought to be addressed seriously.

It needs to be taken at least as seriously as why Europeans did the buying and transporting of slaves."
— John Thornton



Opinion

Research and Constructed Response

Those involved in the Atlantic Slave Trade understood an important fact: young, strong, men were the most desirable and profitable for the seller and buyer. Consider what you know about Africa today. What conclusions can be reached concerning the impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on Africa today? Support your response with evidence from information you gathered