

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Slavery

Demand for slaves to cultivate sugarcane and other crops caused what came to be known as the triangle trade. Ships leaving Europe first stopped in Africa where they traded weapons, ammunition, metal, liquor, and cloth for captives taken in wars or raids. The ships then traveled to America, where slaves were exchanged for sugar, rum, salt, and other island products. The ships returned home loaded with products popular with the European people, and ready to begin their journey again.



An estimated 8 to 15 million Africans reached the Americas from the 16th through the 19th century. Only the youngest and healthiest people were taken for what was called the middle passage of the triangle trade, partly because they would be worth more in America, and partly because they were the most likely to reach their destination alive. Conditions aboard the ship were dreadful. Slaves were jammed into the hull; chained to one another in order to stop revolts; as many as one in five passengers did not survive the journey. When one of the enslaved people was stricken with dysentery or smallpox, they were cast overboard.

Those who survived the middle passage faced more abuses on the plantations. Many of the plantation owners had returned to Europe, leaving their holdings in America to be managed by overseers who were often unstable or unsavory. Families were split up, and the Africans were not allowed to learn to read or write. African men, women, and children were forced to work with little to eat or drink.

The African slave population quickly began to outnumber the Europeans and Native Americans. The proportion of slaves ranged from about one third in Cuba, to more than

ninety percent in many of the islands. Slave rebellions were common. As slave rebellions became more frequent, European investors lost money. The costs of maintaining slavery grew higher when the European governments sent in armed forces to quell the revolts.

Many Europeans began to pressure their governments to abolish slavery. The first organized opposition to slavery came in 1724 from the Quakers, a Christian sect also known as the Society of Friends. Great Britain outlawed slavery in all of their territories in 1833, but the practice continued for almost fifty years on some of the islands of the Caribbean.

Once slavery was abolished, the plantation owners hired hundreds of thousands of people from India and other places in Asia. In Trinidad, about forty percent of the population is Asian.

### Important Dates in the history of Slavery

- 1569 Queen Elizabeth I declared, "England was too pure an air for slaves to breathe in." English law decreed "as soon as a man puts foot on English ground, he is free," yet slavery in British held land in American continued for 238 years.
- 1774 Rhode Island became the first of the American colonies to abolish slavery.
- 1807 The United States forbade the importation of new African slaves.
- 1807 The British abolished the slave trade in all of their colonies.
- 1823 Slavery abolished in Chile.
- 1829 Slavery abolished in Mexico
- 1854 Slavery abolished in Peru.
- 1865 The fourteenth amendment to the United States Constitution declared that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for punishment for crime shall exist within the United States
- 1873 Slavery abolished in Puerto Rico.
- 1880 Slavery abolished in Cuba.
- 1888 Slavery abolish in Brazil.
- 1962 Slavery abolished in Saudi Arabia.

\*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.

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**Fill in the Blanks**

European p\_\_\_\_\_ owners found that s\_\_\_\_\_ was their most  
\*p\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ crop, but sugar c\_\_\_\_\_ required a great deal of backbreaking  
l\_\_\_\_\_. The plantation o\_\_\_\_\_ lowered their l\_\_\_\_\_ costs by importing  
A\_\_\_\_\_ people who has been captured and e\_\_\_\_\_.

Many Africans reached America in what came to be known as the t\_\_\_\_\_ trade. Ships  
leaving E\_\_\_\_\_ first stopped in A\_\_\_\_\_. They exchanged w\_\_\_\_\_, ammuniton,  
m\_\_\_\_\_, liquor, and \*t\_\_\_\_\_xt\_\_\_\_\_ for c\_\_\_\_\_ taken in w\_\_\_\_\_ or r\_\_\_\_\_.  
The ships then traveled to America in the M\_\_\_\_\_ Passage of the \*v\_\_\_\_\_, where  
s\_\_\_\_\_ were traded for s\_\_\_\_\_ and other island products.

The African slave p\_\_\_\_\_ quickly began to o\_\_\_\_\_ the  
E\_\_\_\_\_ and N\_\_\_\_\_ Americans. As slave r\_\_\_\_\_ became  
more f\_\_\_\_\_, European i\_\_\_\_\_ lost m\_\_\_\_\_. Many Europeans  
began to p\_\_\_\_\_ their g\_\_\_\_\_ to abolish s\_\_\_\_\_. Great  
Britain o\_\_\_\_\_ slavery in 1833, but the practice continued on some of the i\_\_\_\_\_  
for almost another f\_\_\_\_\_ years. Once s\_\_\_\_\_ was a\_\_\_\_\_, the  
p\_\_\_\_\_ owners hired people from I\_\_\_\_\_ and other places in A\_\_\_\_\_. This is  
why many A\_\_\_\_\_ people live in the West I\_\_\_\_\_ today.

**Answer in complete sentences**

\*1. What was the triangle trade?

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\*2. Why do you think we have only a rough estimate of how many Africans were enslaved and brought to America?

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3. Why were only the youngest and healthiest people taken for the Middle Passage of the triangle trade?

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\*4. Why are Islam and Hinduism prominent religious faiths on the Caribbean island of Trinidad?

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5. How long ago was slavery abolished in Saudi Arabia?

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