**The Atlantic Slave Trade**

**Station activity**

**Historical Context:**

Sugar plantations and tobacco farms required a large supply of workers to make them profitable for their owners. European owners had planned to use Native Americans as a source of cheap labor. But millions of Native Americans died from disease, warfare, and brutal treatment. Beginning around 1500, European colonists in Brazil, the Caribbean, and the southern colonies of North America, who needed cheap labor, began using enslaved Africans on their plantations and farms. This demand for cheap labor resulted in the brutalities of the slave trade. The buying and selling of Africans for work in the Americas, known as the Atlantic slave trade, became a massive enterprise. Between 1500 and 1600, nearly 300,000 Africans were transported to the Americas. During the next century, that number climbed to almost 1.3 million. By the time the Atlantic slave trade ended around 1870, Europeans had imported about 9.5 million Africans to the Americas.

**Activity:**

You will investigate aspects of the Atlantic slave trade by visiting various stations. Each station provides you with an accurate and detailed account of the slave trade.

*Stations 1-4* focus on the white slave owner’s perspective concerning the slave trade, *stations 5 – 7*, looks into the horrors of the middle passage, *stations 8 – 11*  point out African and African American responses to slavery, *stations 12 - 14*, delve into the impact of the slave trade on Africans in the Americas as well as those who remained in Africa.

You are each required to answer the questions **on a separate piece of paper**. In order to receive full credit you must answer the questions thoroughly and in complete sentences. Please staple this handout to your answer sheet. **Suggestion: Start numbering at the station you start at (ie if you start at station 6 start numbering and completing the stations with the #6) and do you summaries all together at the end as no class time will be provided to complete them.**

**Justification of Slavery (Stations 1, 2, 3, 4)**

**Station 1:**

1. Look at the BBC website on the ethical background of slavery found at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/slavery/ethics/philosophers_1.shtml>
   1. According to Aristotle why was it right that some individuals were slaves? What were natural and legal slaves?

**Station 2:**

**Use the document posted on your teacher’s website to answer the questions regarding Thomas Jefferson:**

1. What was Jefferson’s attitude regarding the continuation of slave trade into America?
2. Why do you suppose Jefferson developed this attitude in these years?
3. Look at the entry dated June 1785. What are Jefferson’s fears and hopes for the United States?

**Station 3:**

1. Read the introduction to and the letter of George Washington to John F. Mercer. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/04-04-02-0232>
   1. What was Washington’s attitude regarding slavery?
   2. To what extent did Washington’s actions regarding his slaves reflect his beliefs?
   3. For what reasons do you imagine that Washington did not speak out on the issue of slavery?

**Station 4:**

1. Use [https://eh.net/encyclopedia/the-economics-of-the-civil-war/](https://eh.net/encyclopedia/the-economics-of-the-civil-war/%20%20)  to answer the following questions:
   1. Use Figure One to compare the value of slaves in 1805 to slaves in 1860.
   2. According to Table One, which three states had the highest percentage of population that were slaves?
   3. Which two states had the highest fraction of earnings due to slavery? What percentage of those two states income was due to slavery?
   4. For all eleven slave states, what was the total fraction of their earnings was due to slavery?

**Summary: Justification of Slavery**

1. Which of the documents reviewed in stations 1 - 4 were primary documents?
2. According to Washington and Jefferson, were American slaves natural slaves?
3. What were some of the reasons why so many white Americans supported slavery?
4. Explain how slavery transformed the United States into an economic leader?

**Middle Passage (Stations 5, 6, 7)**

**Station 5:**

*Read the excerpt from the National Geographic article on the Henrietta Marie that can be located***SEE DOCUMENT ON WEBSITE**

1. How were the slaves made to look healthy before being sold?
2. Why did some perspective slave owners taste the sweat of the slaves?
3. What was the average mortality rate on the middle passage?

**Station 6:**

Slave Ship (Dense Packing). Look at the image of the British slave ship found at <https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/media_player?mets_filename=evr4303mets.xml>

1. What is depicted in this picture?
2. What is the reason for putting slaves in a ship this way? Why not give them more room?
3. What does this tell you about how the slave traders felt about the Africans they were bringing over?

Exercising Slaves on a Slave Ship

<http://africanhistory.about.com/od/slaveryimages/ig/Slavery-Images-Gallery/MiddlePassage001.htm>

1. For what purpose were the enslaved Africans brought to the deck of the slave ship?
2. Which philosophy do you believe is expressed in this image, dense or loose?
3. Why do you believe this to be true?
4. Create your own caption for this image.

**Station 7:** [**http://www.slavevoyages.org/static/images/assessment/intro-maps/09.jpg**](http://www.slavevoyages.org/static/images/assessment/intro-maps/09.jpg)

[**https://i.pinimg.com/originals/02/b8/87/02b88730b7f4615c97c9731127ba0066.gif**](https://i.pinimg.com/originals/02/b8/87/02b88730b7f4615c97c9731127ba0066.gif)

Review and use the maps in conjunction with one another in order to answer the following questions

1. What (European) country shipped the most slaves to the Americas?
2. How many slaves does the United States have coming in to the country?
3. What area of Africa are most slaves being taken from?
4. How many slaves are being taken to Jamaica?
5. Are any *individual regions* of the United States included in the top ten slave importing regions? If yes, what number and where? If no, why not?

**Summary: Middle Passage**

1. Which of the documents examined in these stations were primary documents?
2. What was the Middle Passage? Why do you think it was called this?
3. Why do you think slave ship owners used these two different methods of packing slaves onto their ships?

**African Resistance (Stations 8, 9, 10, 11)**

**Station 8:**

Read the background information on jubilee songs at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/slavery/experience/education/feature.html> **Then look at the lyrics and listen to three of the five Religious Songs. (YouTube for songs)**

* 1. Why do you think all of the slave songs have a reference to religion?
  2. What impact would these slave songs have on the attitudes and emotions of slaves in America?
  3. How do the slave songs show the horrors of slavery in America?

**Station 9:**

Gilder Lehrman Amistad Page

*Follow the directions and answer the questions for each section listed below.*

1. Click on the [“Narrative of the Amistad Incident”](http://glc.yale.edu/brief-narrative-amistad-incident)
2. Answer the following questions:
   1. Describe the events of the Amistad Case.
   2. Why was the Amistad Case such a historic event in the history of the Slave Trade?
   3. What were the critical issues that were raised as a result of the case?

**Station 10: Fredrick Douglas**

Read the excerpt from <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/fdoug.htm> and answer the following questions about Fredrick Douglas and his experience as a slave.

1. What were “Free Papers”? What was included in them?
2. How did some slaves use “Free Papers” to escape slavery?
3. Explain what specifically Fredrick Douglass did to initially escape slavery?
4. What was the “feeling” in Baltimore that helped Douglass escape slavery?

**Station 11: King Alfonzo**

<http://genius.com/Nzinga-mbemba-afonso-i-letters-to-the-king-of-portugal-1526-annotated>

Read the excerpt from King Alfonzo and answer the following questions.

1. According to Alfonso, how has the Atlantic Slave Trade negatively affected his country?
2. What does Alfonso request from the Kings of Portugal? Give specific examples.
3. What does Alfonso address that is of "little service to God" but offensive nonetheless?
4. After reading the passage, do you believe that Alfonso is completely opposed to the Slave Trade or only opposed to certain aspects of the trade? Use specific evidence to support your answer.

**Summary: African Resistance**

1. In what different ways did Africans resist capture and enslavement?
2. Why do you think there were few violent uprisings?

**Impact of Slavery (Stations 12, 13, 14)**

**Station 12:**

Impact of slavery on Africa:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6504141.stm>

1. How has slavery weakened the nation of Ghana?
2. How did slavery add to increased warfare in Africa?
3. What events followed slavery that helped to continue to impede African advancement?

**Station 13:**

Impact of slavery on America:

1. <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3043>
2. Give two examples, for each, of how African slaves kept their culture through:
3. Religion
4. Music
5. Language

**Station 14:**

Impact of Slavery in the Caribbean

Read, Dr. Kwame Nantambu’s, “A Case Study of Trinidad”: <http://www.trinicenter.com/kwame/2002/Nov/252002.htm>

1. In what year were the first African slaves brought to Trinidad? How many?
2. In what year were the first indentured servants brought to Trinidad from India? How many?
3. What is an indentured immigrant/servant?
4. Discuss *two* reasons why Indian indentured servants were brought to Trinidad.
5. Read the section , “Impact of Slavery and Indentured System”
6. According to Dr. Kwame, how do Indians see themselves in today’s Trinidad?
7. How are Africans viewed in today’s Trinidad?

**Summary: Impact of Slavery Summary**

1. Which impact of the African slave trade on African culture was the most detrimental: economic, social, or religious?
2. Why was the impact of slavery greater in the Caribbean than in the United States?
3. What are some positive African contributions to North American and Caribbean culture?

**HONORS EXTENSION:**

If you are enrolled in honors you are required to complete the essential question below.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:**

**To what extent did African slavery shape African and American cultures?**

Please answer the question in two well-written paragraphs. You may cite the information you obtained from this activity.