

### Triangular Trade: The Trans-Atlantic Slave trade

Triangular trade is a term used to describe trade between three areas. The slave trade that took place from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century till the 19<sup>th</sup> Century between Europe, Africa and the Americas was a triangular trade. Merchants and traders made great profit. The business was risky, competitive, and severe, but African people fetched a high price at auctions, making the trade in human cargo a lucrative business.

Merchants from various European nations were involved in the Atlantic Slave trade: Portugal, Spain, France, England, Scotland, Germany, Denmark, Holland. The trade of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean began with the Portuguese on coast of West Africa in the 15<sup>th</sup> century [1440's]. Shortly thereafter, the Spaniards joined the slave trade by using Africans as laborers on islands, Cuba and Hispaniola. After Portugal had succeeded in establishing sugar plantations (engenhos) in northern Brazil - 1545-- Portuguese merchants on the West African coast began to supply enslaved Africans to the sugar planters there. While at first these planters relied almost exclusively on the natives for slave labor, a gigantic shift toward Africans took place after 1570 when the natives experienced a series of epidemics which decimated [wiped out] their societies. By 1630, Africans had replaced the natives as the largest labor force on Brazilian sugar plantations

As Britain rose in naval power and controlled more of the Americas, they became the leading slave traders, mostly operating out of Liverpool and Bristol. Other British cities also profited from the slave trade. Birmingham was the largest gun producing city in Britain at the time, and guns were traded for slaves. 75% of all sugar produced in the plantations came to London to supply the highly lucrative coffee houses there

1<sup>st</sup> Leg: Ships would start from a European port: [\*Liverpool; \*Nantes; \*Lisbon; \*Amsterdam.] where supplies such as beads, cloth, copper utensils, pewter plates and pots, iron, gunpowder, firearms and alcohol would be shipped to ports in Africa. Three ports that held Africans captured for enslavement were \*Luanda [Angola] \*Elmina [Ghana] and \*Bonny [Nigeria]. When the ships arrived in Africa, the Euro-goods would be sold in exchange for the Africans who would be taken from their holding places and tightly-packed onto ships, like any other cargo, merchants wanted to get as many bodies as they could on each ship, this would maximize their profits and make up for the losses of Africans who died in travel. → 20% died

2<sup>nd</sup> Leg: The ship [packed with Africans] would then make the approximately ten-week journey along the Middle Passage to American ports in \*Rio de Janeiro; \*Havana; \*Bahia; \*Charleston. Once the ship reached the 'New World' the enslaved Africans would be sold for a good profit. The Africans who were taken to the Caribbean would most likely be put into a seasoning camp (Africans that were shipped to North America bypassed this process) The camps would be used to 'break' the Africans and condition them as 'slaves' and introduce them to their new life. Jamaica held one of the most notorious of these camps. Historians estimate that 6.6 million Africans died while being 'seasoned'.

3<sup>rd</sup> Leg: The ships were dunked, and cleaned, then, Sugar, Indigo, Raw Cotton, [later] Coffee & Tobacco, would be packed onto the ships and the ships would return to the port where they began, in a European city or a European Controlled Port in a North American Colony.

\*\* Belongs on Map

Slavery existed before but minor; 7th C  
Spread of Islam →  
↑ Slavery  
Non-Muslims  
Can be bought & sold as slaves.  
African slaves had some rights  
Social mobility

African Leaders played willing role

Why did they use African slaves?  
① Immunity  
② Experience  
③ can't escape

1<sup>st</sup> Leg:

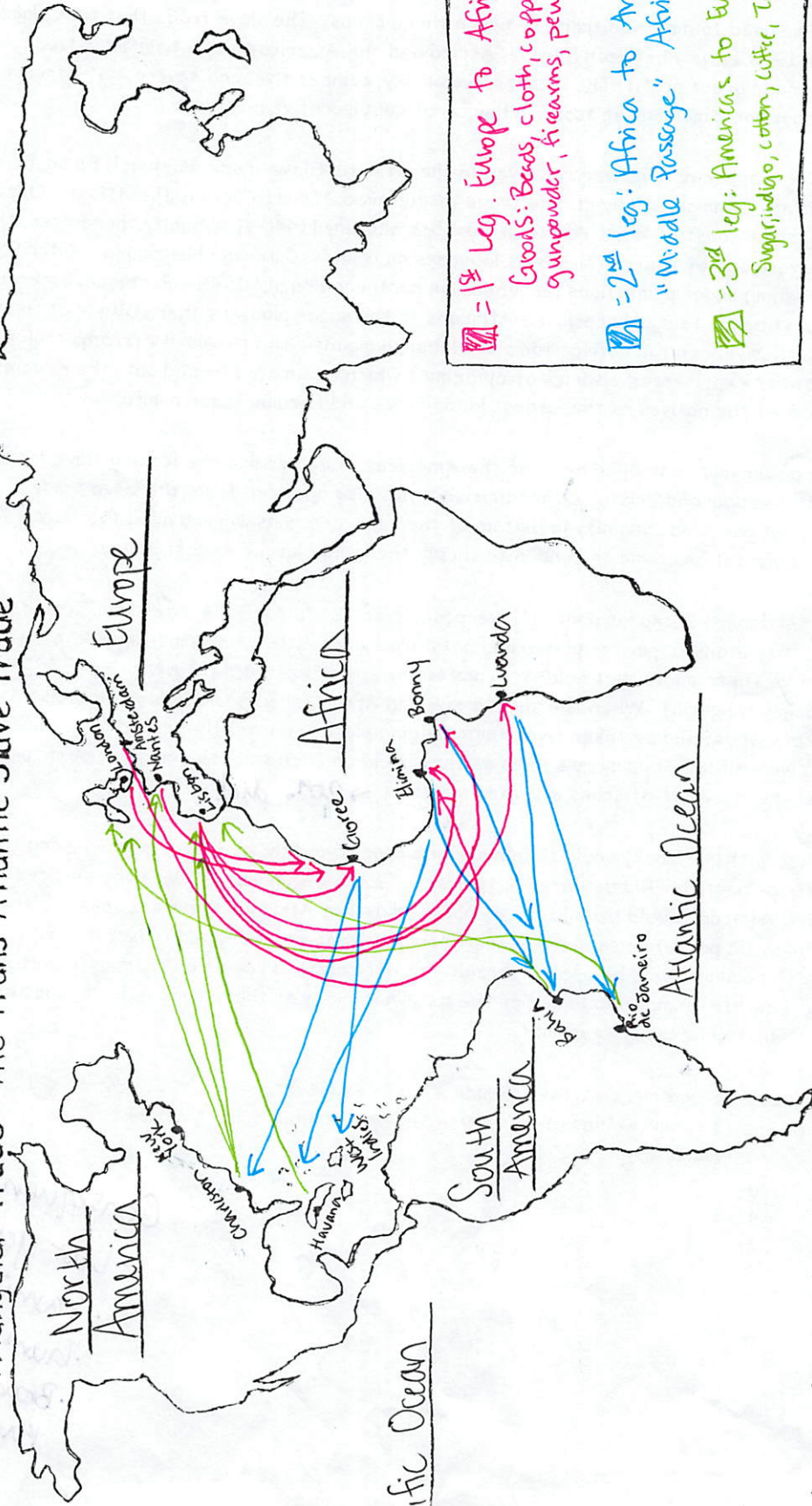
2<sup>nd</sup> Leg

3<sup>rd</sup> Leg:

Consequences:  
• Lost generations  
• Families separated  
• Guns introduced  
• Brought culture, knowledge to N. Amer.

Name Paras  
 Period/Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Triangular Trade—The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade



█ = 1<sup>st</sup> Leg: Europe to Africa  
 Goods: Beads, cloth, copper, iron, alcohol, gunpowder, firearms, pewter, plates + pots.  
█ = 2<sup>nd</sup> Leg: Africa to Americas  
 "Middle Passage" African Slaves  
█ = 3<sup>rd</sup> Leg: Americas to European ports  
 Sugar, indigo, cotton, coffee, Tobacco

Directions:

Read the hand-out on the Triangular trade: Illustrate the above map and show the trade routes of the three legs. This can be done with arrows but you also need to illustrate and list the "goods" on each leg of the trip as well Show what is going where—in the triangular trade of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

Label the following: Atlantic Ocean; Pacific Ocean; North America; South America; West Indies; Africa; Europe; New York; Charleston; Havana; Bahia; Rio de Janeiro; Goree; Elimina; Luanda; London; Lisbon

Nantes, Amsterdam

Make a Key to explain how the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> leg of the Triangular Trade are designated on your map.