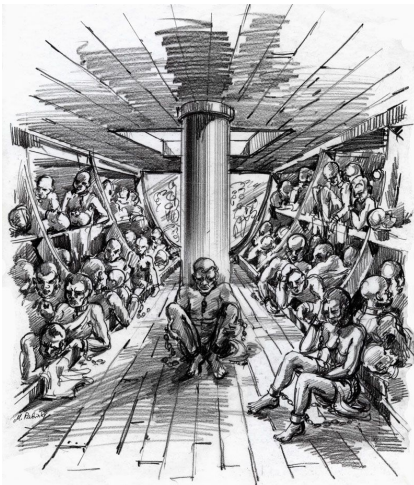


The Triangle Trade

Atlantic Slave Trade - one of the biggest forced migrations in history. Millions of Africans were deported to the American continent and sold as slaves.

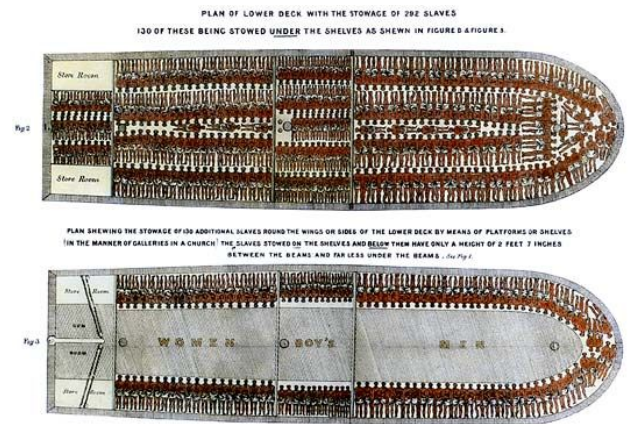
Triangular Trade - A system in which slaves, crops, and manufactured goods were traded between Africa, the Americas, and Europe.

Middle Passage - The “middle passage” was the part of Triangle Trade which brought the slaves from west africa to the west indies.



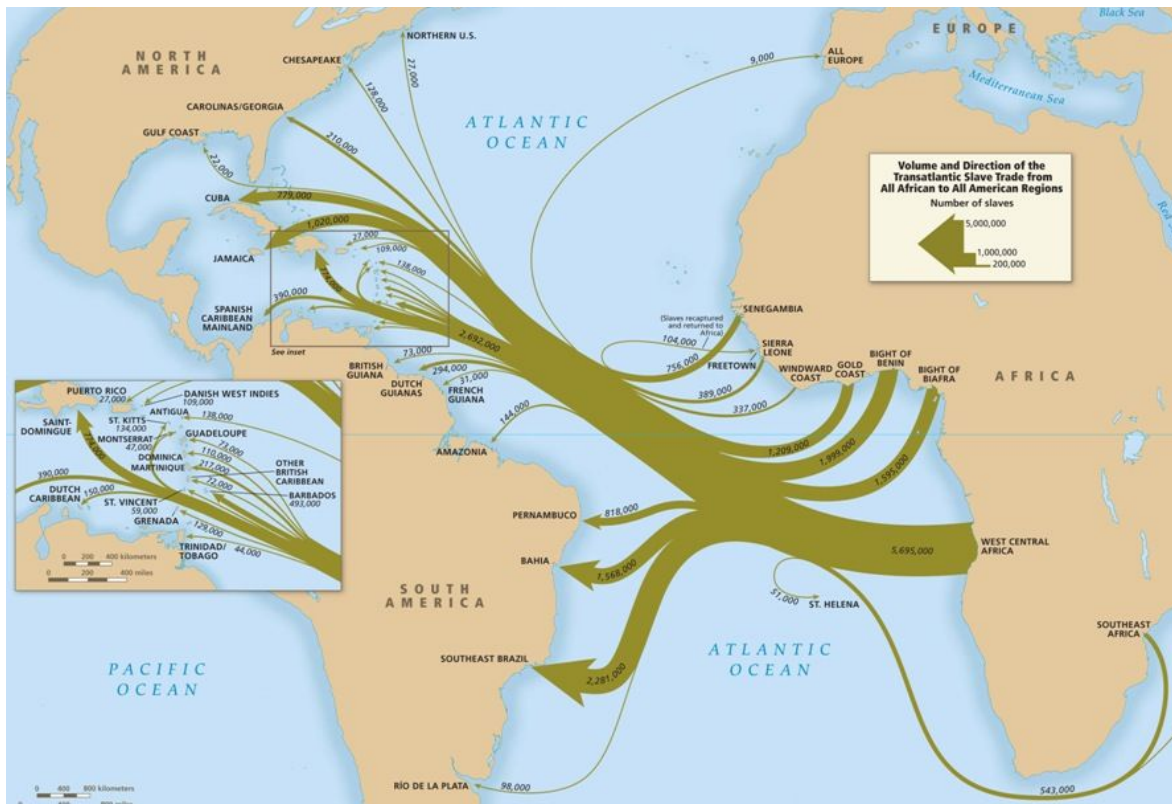
In order to establish profitable colonies, European countries needed a large supply of labor. Europeans enslaved indigenous people, but because many indigenous populations were decimated by European disease and violence, indigenous slavery did not meet the labor demands of the colonies.

In the 16th century, Europeans began purchasing enslaved Africans from West African traders. The forced labor of Africans proved hugely profitable for Europe and its

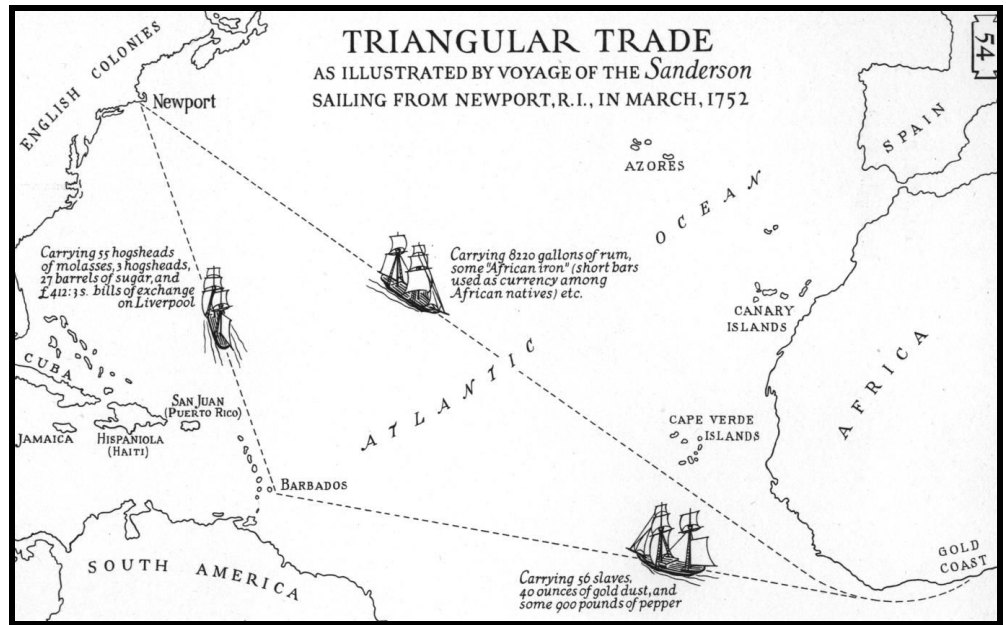


colonies. Slave owners didn't pay their slaves and the lifelong hereditary nature of slavery guaranteed new generations of free labor. In order to maximize profits for slave owners, working conditions for slaves in the colonies were often atrocious. After arrival in the Americas the enslaved Africans had to adapt to new foods, new languages, and (possibly) a new climate. Slaves retained parts of their African culture despite the hardships for them in the Americas.

Over the course of the next four centuries, it is estimated that more than 12.5

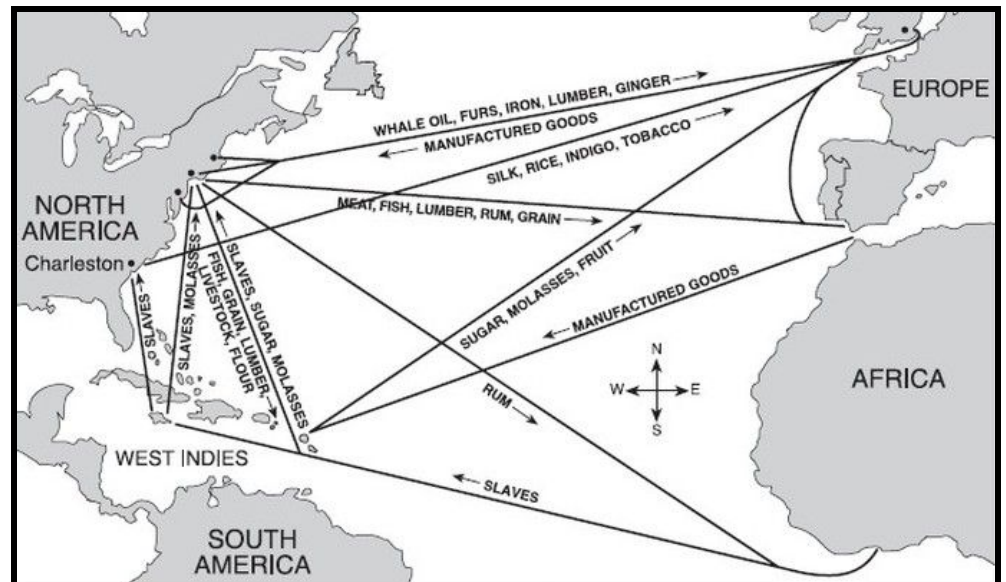


million Africans were taken from Africa. Due to the brutal conditions on the trip to the Americas, historians estimate that only 10.7 million of the captives survived. The vast majority of those slaves were taken to European colonies in South America and the Caribbean. The most recent estimates suggest that less than 400,000 slaves were taken directly from Africa to the present-day United States. The Portuguese, British, French, Spanish, & Dutch were the main slave traders.



The slave trade drastically changed African societies. In the centuries before the Atlantic Slave Trade mutually beneficial intercontinental trade was an important part of African states, economies. Many of these relationships were replaced by the slave trade. In Africa, the slave trade destabilized the states, created economic depressions, and led to wars.

The Atlantic Slave Trade was part of a larger economic system known as the Triangular Trade that connected three continents. European traders would transport enslaved Africans to European colonies in the Americas, where the slaves would work to produce various agricultural goods, including sugar, cotton, and tobacco. Those raw goods were then shipped back to Europe in order to be turned into manufactured goods. European traders would subsequently trade those goods with West African slave traders for more kidnapped Africans, and the cycle would continue. It is important to note that there various exceptions to this basic outline. For instance, European manufactured good were also sold to colonies in the Americas. Similarly, sugar produced in the Caribbean was sold in New England and Rum produced in the Americas was sold in Africa.



The Triangle Trade

1. Why did Europeans need a large labor force in the colonies?
2. Why did enslaving the Native People fail?
3. How did Europeans replace Native Slaves?
4. Why is Triangular Trade called Triangle Trade?
5. What is the middle passage?
6. How did slavery change African culture in Africa?
7. How did slavery affect the culture of Africans in the Americas?
8. Were there exceptions to the Triangle Trade pattern? Give examples.
9. Which of the motives for exploration related most closely to Triangle Trade? Why?
10. What part of the Triangle Trade does the map to the right show? Why are more slaves being transported to some places over others?

