

Ch. 8 Vocabulary

▲ enslaved Africans - people from Africa who were forced to give up their ~~lives~~ freedom and spend their lives obeying and working for their "owners" or masters

▲ dilemmas - Situations in which a person is forced to make a choice, even though there is no good choice to make

▲ Middle Passage - The voyage ("passage") of slave traders and enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa to the Americas

▲ plantation - a usually large area of privately owned land where crops were grown with the labor of workers or slaves who lived on the land.

▲ Americas - continents of North and South America, Central America, and nearby islands, like those in the Caribbean Sea

▲ slave auction - A sale in which slaves were sold to buyers who bid for them. (slaves were usually sold to highest bidder.)

▲ overseer - A person who was put in charge of the work of slaves. Overseer had great power over the slaves and could punish them for disobeying him.

European Slave Trade in West Africa

1. Read Section 8.3. Discuss this question with your group: *Why did European slave traders come to West Africa?*

- 1) They came because they had large plantations
- 2) They traded slaves for tobacco, rum, and cloth and guns
- 3) Needed people to help out/
work on plantation

2. Discuss Critical Thinking Question A with your group:

Pretend that Europeans have been trading guns for slaves with your rival village. You now need guns for protection. What should you do? Why?

1. Refuse to sell slaves to Europeans.
2. Raid other villages and capture people to trade as slaves for guns.
3. Trade your own servants, prisoners of war, and criminals (all called "slaves" by the Europeans) for guns.

3. Complete this sentence:

We chose option _____ because:

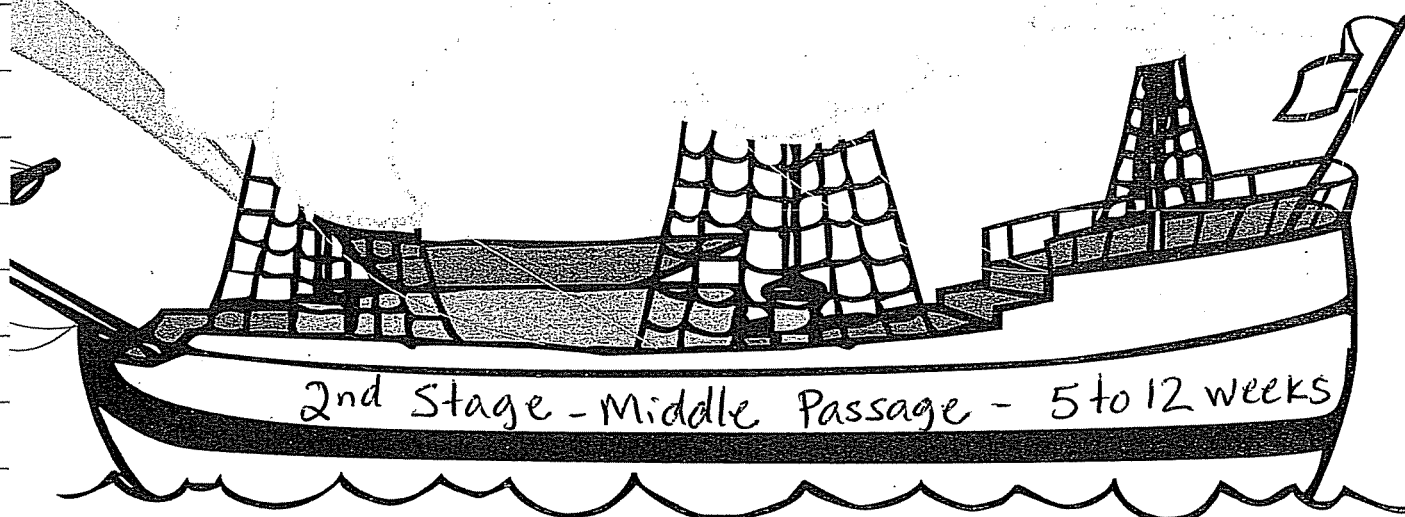
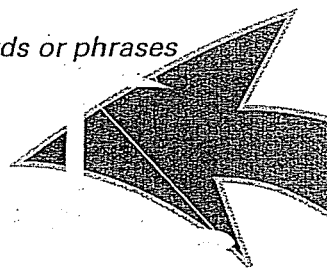
4. Read Section 8.4 and list at least three ways Africans actually responded to European slave traders.

- 1) Refused to trade slaves
- 2) Raided other villages for slaves.
- 3) Tried to find slaves outside their community.
- 4) Traded people who were already slaves, such as prisoners of war.
- 5) Traded reluctantly b/c they feared other villages might try to capture them & sell them

The Middle Passage

5. Read Section 8.5. Discuss this question with your group: *What five words or phrases best describe the voyage?*

- lice, blood, fleas, rats, mucus, smell
- unbearable - packed together on ships
- death because of conditions
- chained together
- marched hundreds of miles
- branded



6. Discuss Critical Thinking Question B with your group: Pretend you are an enslaved African. How would you respond to the inhumane conditions of the Middle Passage? Why?

1. I would refuse to eat and would resist any help from the slave traders or other captured Africans.
2. I would try to organize a revolt by the captive Africans against the slave traders, even though I would probably get killed.
3. I would try to maintain my strength and survive the voyage.

7. Complete this sentence:
We chose option _____
because:

8. Read Section 8.6 and list at least three ways enslaved Africans actually responded during the Middle Passage.

- 1) Some slaves tried to kill themselves by refusing to eat or jumping ship.
- 2) Tried to revolt against the crew (fight them)
- 3) Tried to save energy and survive the journey

Arrival in America

9. Read Section 8.7. Discuss these questions with your group:

What were two ways enslaved Africans were sold? What are three things that happened to slaves during their first year in America?

① sold at "scrambles" to white plantation owners all for same price

② sold at auctions - various prices
- families separated

① "breaking in" period - shouted at in foreign language

② expected to know tools of trade

③ worked 16 hour days

10. Discuss Critical Thinking Question C with your group:

Pretend a plantation owner bought you at a slave auction and sent you to work in the tobacco fields. How would you respond to your new life? Why?

1. I would run away from the plantation, even though I would likely be caught and punished severely.
2. I would secretly resist slavery by breaking tools, working slowly, pretending to be sick, and singing songs with secret messages of escape.
3. I would work hard and obey the rules set down by the slave owner in hopes that my family and I might be treated well and given easier jobs.

11. Complete this sentence: We chose option ____ because:

12. Read Section 8.8 and list at least three ways slaves reacted to their new situation.