Exploration and Expansion
The Atlantic Slave Trade
The Route

The Columbian Exchange opened up trade routes from Europe to the New World.
Origins of the Slave Trade

High demand for labor!
- Plantations- estates where cash crops such as sugar or tobacco were grown on large scale.

Shortage of Labor (Why?)
- Planter had first used Native Americans as workers, but European diseases had killed millions of them.

Indentured servants were too expensive!
Triangular Trade- trading network lasting from the 1600’s to the 1800’s that carried goods and enslaved people between Europe, the Americas, and Africa.
The demand for labor in the western hemisphere stimulated a profitable three-legged trading pattern

- European manufactured goods, namely cloth and metal wares, especially firearms, went to Africa where they were exchanged for slaves.
- The slaves were then shipped to the Caribbean and Americas where they were sold for cash or sometimes bartered for sugar or molasses.
- Then the ships returned to Europe loaded with American products.

Triangular Trade
Old World vs. New World Slavery

- Classical world and medieval slavery was not based on race.
- Ancient world did not necessarily view slavery as a permanent condition.
- Slaves did not necessarily hold the lowest status in early civilizations.
- Slaves in the old world often were symbols of prestige, luxury and power (true even in the new world prior to European Colonization).
The Slave Trade in Africa

Ancient and universal phenomena
African kingdoms and Islamic nations conduct brisk commerce
– Not race based
  • Arab merchants and West African kings imported white slaves from Europe
– West African slave trade dealt mainly in women and children who would serve as concubines and servants
  • European demand for agricultural laborers changed slave trading patterns
SLAVERY ALREADY EXISTED IN AFRICA BEFORE THE EUROPEAN ATLANTIC TRADE

Europeans began to dominate the African trade from the 16th century onwards.

A series of trading forts were built along the African coast to protect European traders' interests.

The Arab Trade
Slaves had been transported across the Sarahan region to the Middle East since Ancient times.

Slave market in Yemen showing African slaves, 13th century AD.

Slaves were brought to the coastal areas where they were sold to European slave traders.
Middle Passage

Middle Passage - the name for voyages that brought enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to North America and the Caribbean.
Maps of the Triangular Trade
Middle Passage Ship

Plan shewing the stowage of 1,300 additional slaves round the wings or sides of the lower deck by means of platforms or shelves (in the manner of galleries in a church). The slaves stowed on the shelves and below them have only a height of 2 feet 7 inches between the beams and far less under the beams. See Fig. 1.
Statistics on Slave Ships

Journey: Lasts 3-12 weeks

10-20% of Africans died on voyage

At dock, families were broken at auctions.
- Adolescent Males between the ages of 18 – 25 were the most expensive
- Women were prized because they could reproduce and add to their master’s wealth.
Statistics on Slave Ships

Common to dump your cargo for sickness or food shortages.

Covert resistance (attempted suicide, jumped overboard, refusal to eat).
Slave mutinies on board ships were common (1 out of every 10 voyages across the Atlantic experienced a revolt).

Some preferred death to slavery
The Middle Passage
Aim: How did the Atlantic slave trade effect Africa?

Do Now: What is the legacy of
The Middle Passage
“Loose packing” meant that the captains would take on board fewer slaves in hope to reduce sickness and death.

“Tight packing” meant that the captains would carry as many slaves as their ship could hold, as they believed that many people would die on the voyage anyway.
Slave Ship Plan

DESCRIPTION OF A SLAVE SHIP.

[Diagram of a slave ship showing various sections and the arrangement of spaces.]
Aim: How did the Atlantic slave trade effect Africa?

Do Now: What is the legacy of...
“Coffin” Position: Onboard a Slave Ship
- Most ships provided slaves with enough room to sit upright, but not enough to stand.
- Others forced slaves to lie in chains with barely 20 inches space between them.
Slave Ship Interior
Come in, sit down, get out a piece of paper. Pop Quiz! 10 minutes!

- Describe the differences between Old World slavery vs. New World slavery.
- What was the driving factor behind the push for slavery in the New World?
- What is the voyage that slaves were forced to take from Africa to the New World called?
- What does “tight” packing and “loose” packing refer to?
A Slave’s Story

Olaudah Equiano

Equiano was originally from Benin/Nigeria and was captured by slave raiders when he was 10.

Spent 21 years as a slave and was able to save up enough money to buy his freedom.

In 1789 he published *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself*.

Conditions

Suicides

Smells

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_O3TWFFmoM
• When the slave ship docked, the slaves would be taken off the ship and placed in a pen
• There they would be washed and their skin covered with grease, or sometimes tar, to make them look healthy (and therefore more valuable)
• They would also be branded with a hot iron to identify them as slaves
Slave Master Brands
This nineteenth-century engraving suggests the humiliation Africans endured as they were subjected to physical inspections before being sold.
Negros for Sale?

What is the first thought you had when you read this?

How would a wealthy New World colonist have looked at this?

What would an African think when they saw this?
Auctions

- Slaves were sold at auctions
- Buyers physically inspected the slaves, to include their teeth as an indication of the slave’s age
- Auctioneers had slaves perform various acts to demonstrate their physical abilities
A caravel is a ship designed by the Portuguese that has triangular sails, a rudder and a hull. What is a hull?

Who was Olaudah Equiano?

Describe what happened to slaves once they reached the New World.
Slavery in the Colonies

- Worked in: Plantations, Mines, Towns, Countryside

- Women performed domestic duties as cooks or servants.
Fear of Slave REBELLION!

Many slave owners didn’t teach their slaves to read, why?
- The church services usually only read from the New Testament about the suffering of Christ, and avoided the Old Testament about Moses and the Exodus.

There were stiff punishments for even the most minor offenses.
Coped with inhuman treatment by:
- Keeping cultural traditions alive
- Turned to religion
- Destroyed farm equipment
- Attacked slaveholders families
- Ran Away!
30 Lashes
Whipped Slave, early 19c
A Slave Lynching
Negro Hung Alive by Waist
Come In Sit Down Get your IN

- What kind of jobs might a slave do?
- What were slave owners afraid of?
- What kind of resistance did slaves offer?
- What kind of punishments could slaves face?
Survival

- One-third died
  - Men died at a greater rate than women
- Adapted to new foods
- Learned a new language
  - Creole dialect well enough to obey commands
- Psychological ~ no longer suicidal
  - Africans retained culture despite the hardships and cruel treatment
  - Created bonds with shipmates that replaced blood kinship
Effects of the Slave Trade

Atlantic Slave trade continues for 400 years – 15 to 20 Million Africans shipped to Americas

The labor of African slaves helped build the economies of the American colonies.

African Diaspora - the dispersal of people of African descent throughout the Americas and Western Europe due to the slave trade.
## Table 2–1 Estimated Slave Imports by Destination, 1451–1870

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Total Slave Imports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British North America</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish America</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Caribbean</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Caribbean</td>
<td>1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch Caribbean</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Caribbean</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old World</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How was slavery justified?

Christian world - 'Curse of Noah'  
By the 19th century, many historians agree, the belief that African-Americans were descendants of Ham was a primary justification for slavery among Southern Christians and they argued that slavery was in the Bible.

18th Century European - pseudo-scientific racism.
John Wesley

Not all Christians believed in slavery.

Founder of the Methodist Church

Published *Thoughts Upon Slavery* in 1774

On his deathbed he was reading Equiano’s *Narrative*
Abolitionism

Abolitionism was the movement in the late 18th and early 19th centuries to end the practice of slavery in the United Kingdom, the British Empire and the world, including ending the Atlantic slave trade.

In the 17th century, English Quakers and evangelical religious groups condemned slavery (by then applied mostly to Africans) as un-Christian.
Timeline for Abolition of Slavery

1807: Great Britain abolished the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
1813: Gradual emancipation adopted in Argentina.
1814: Gradual emancipation begins in Colombia.
1823: Slavery abolished in Chile.
1824: Slavery abolished in Central America.
1829: Slavery abolished in Mexico.
1831: Slavery abolished in Bolivia.
1833: Abolition of Slavery Act passed in Britain which results in complete emancipation by 1838.
1842: Slavery abolished in Uruguay.
1848: Slavery abolished in all French and Danish colonies.
1851: Slavery abolished in Ecuador.
**Timeline for Abolition of Slavery**

- **1854:** Slavery abolished in Peru and Venezuela.
- **1863:** Emancipation Proclamation issued in the U.S.
- **1863:** Slavery abolished in all Dutch colonies.
- **1865:** Slavery abolished in the U.S. as a result of the **Thirteenth Amendment** to the Constitution and the end of the Civil War.
- **1871:** Gradual emancipation initiated in Brazil.
- **1873:** Slavery abolished in Puerto Rico.
- **1886:** Slavery abolished in Cuba.
- **1888:** Slavery abolished in Brazil.
- **1960s:** Slavery abolished in Saudi Arabia and Angola.
Impact of Slave Trade in Africa

The slave trade brought firearms to such African societies as Ashante, Dahomey, and Oyo and this increased violence.

In the 18th Century, Dahomey expanded rapidly, absorbed neighboring societies, and fielded an army that was largely a slave-raiding force.

Some leaders were forced by the Europeans to engage in slavery by threats of slavery themselves.
Impact of Slave Trade in Africa

Mixed

- Some states like Rwanda largely escaped the slave trade through resistance and geography
- Some like Senegal in west Africa were hit very hard
- Other societies benefited economically from selling slaves, trading, or operating ports
- As abolition took root in the 19th Century some African merchants even complained about the loss of their livelihood

On the whole, however, the slave trade devastated Africa

“Door of No Return” on Goree Island off the coast of Senegal
A BRIEF HISTORY OF SLAVERY

THE STONE AGE

Hunter-gatherer societies did not have enough food to feed extra mouths, so did not have slaves.

ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

All Ancient civilisations - whether in Europe, the Middle East, Asia or the Americas - made use of slavery.

Western slavery goes back 8,000 years to Mesopotamia (present day Iraq).

MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Slavery often took place in the name of religion – Christians, Muslims and Jews all took part.

THE TRANS ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

The Portuguese started the Atlantic slave trade, soon to be joined by the Spanish. Christopher Columbus' conquest of the Caribbean virtually wiped out the native Indians. They were to be replaced by slaves brought from Africa.

GROWTH OF ABOLITION MOVEMENT, 18TH CENTURY

1807 – BRITAIN DECLARES SLAVE TRADE ILLEGAL

1808 – USA DECLARES SLAVE TRADE ILLEGAL

1833 – SLAVERY DECLARED ILLEGAL ACROSS THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

1861-65 – AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

1807 – BRITAIN DECLARES SLAVE TRADE ILLEGAL

1808 – USA DECLARES SLAVE TRADE ILLEGAL

1833 – SLAVERY DECLARED ILLEGAL ACROSS THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

1861-65 – AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
Summary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZPBL7BDdr34