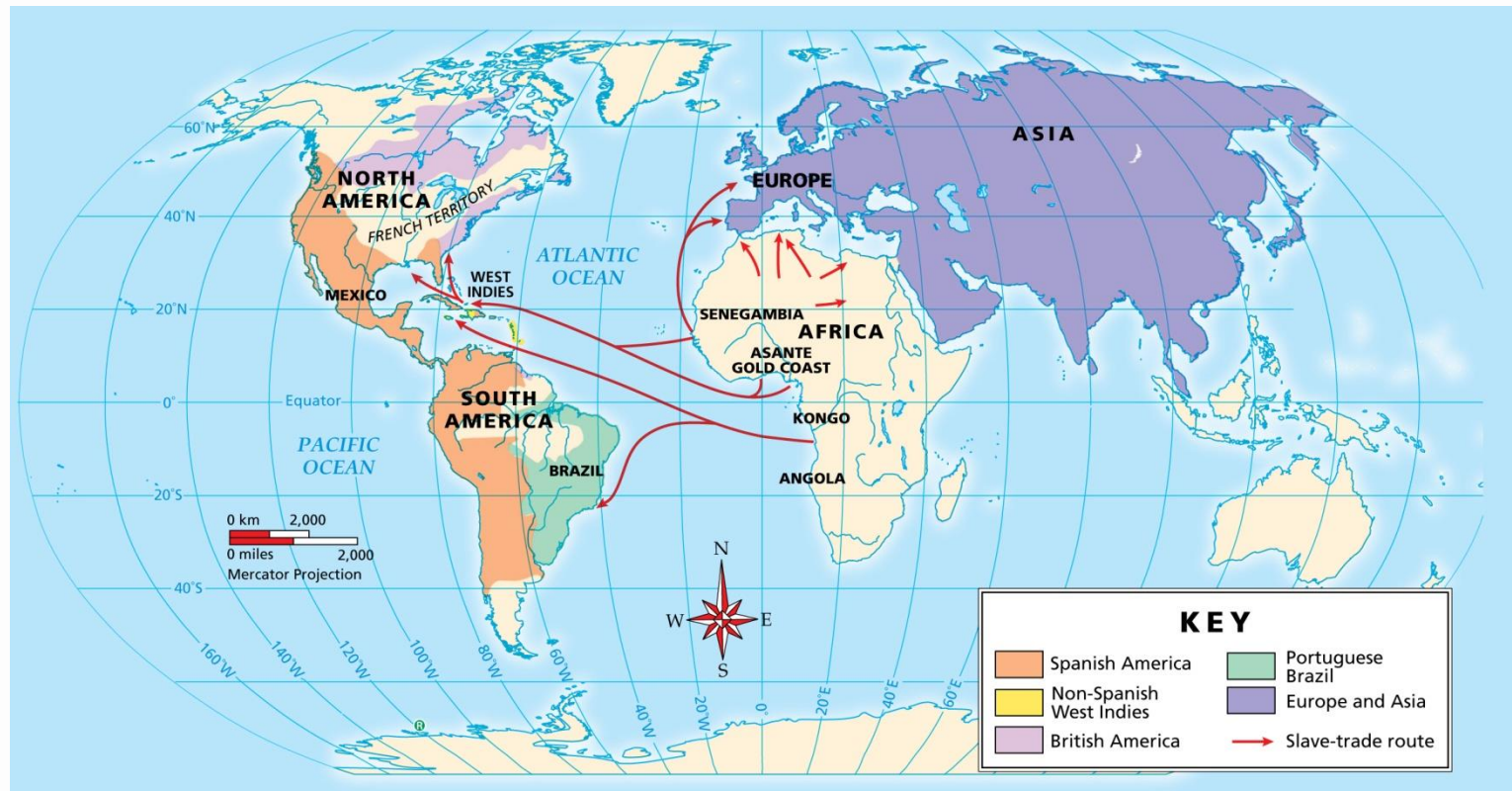# Terms and People

- **triangular trade** – a three-way trade between the colonies, the islands of the Caribbean, and Africa

- **racism** – the belief that one race is superior or inferior to another

- **slave codes** – strict laws that restricted the rights and activities of slaves
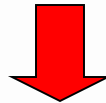
Slavery in the Colonial Period

Objectives

- Describe the conditions under which enslaved Africans came to the Americas.

- Explain why slavery became part of the colonial economy.

- Identify the restrictions placed on enslaved Africans in the colonies.

- Describe how African culture influenced American culture.

How did slavery develop in the colonies and affect colonial life?

Spanish and Portuguese settlers were the first to bring enslaved Africans to the Americas.

Slavery spread to the colonies of other European countries, where it became a regular part of trade and provided cheap labor to southern plantations.
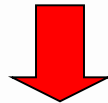
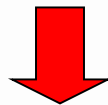The British, Dutch, and French entered the slave trade.

In time, English colonists—especially from New England— were actively shipping enslaved Africans across the Atlantic.

FRENCH TERRITORY

L. Huron

L. Ontario

NH   MA

NY

CT

RI

L. Erie

PA

Mason-Dixon Line

MD   NJ

DE

VA

FRENCH TERRITORY

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

NC

ATLANTIC OCEAN

SC

TIDEWATER

GA

0   200 KM.

0   200 MI.

SPANISH TERRITORY

KEY
NEW ENGLAND COLONIES
MIDDLE COLONIES
SOUTHERN COLONIES
CLAIMED BY NH and NY

More than 10 million enslaved Africans were transported to the Americas between the 1500s and the 1800s.
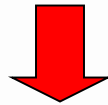
⬇
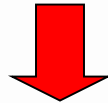
Slave traders set up posts along the African coast.

⬇

Africans who lived on the coast made raids into the interior, seeking captives to sell to the Europeans.

Half of the captives died on forced marches to the coast, some of which were as long as 300 miles.
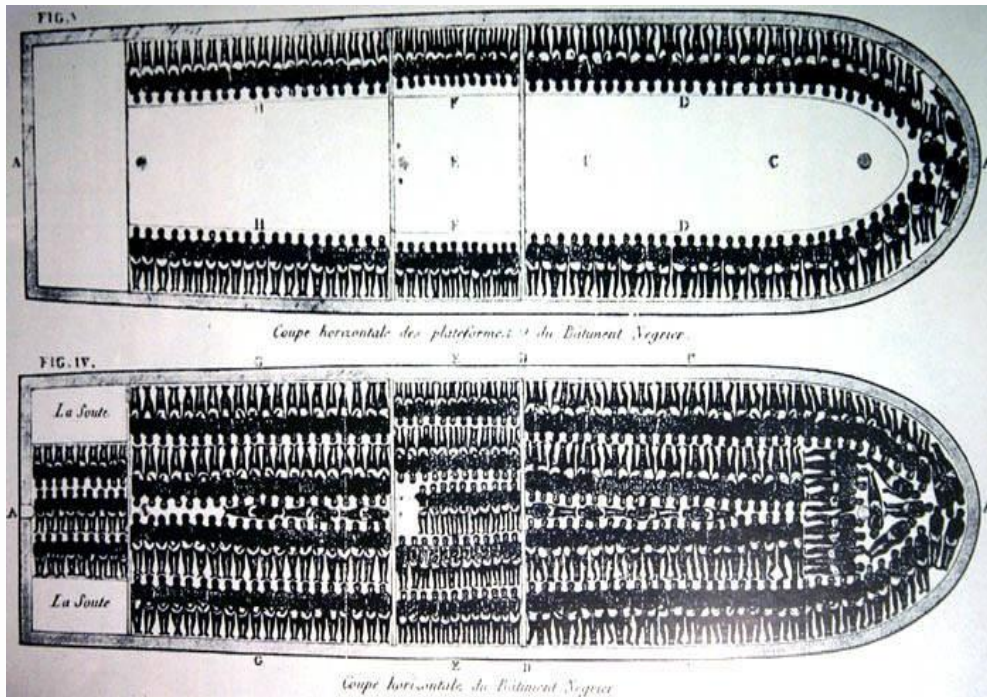
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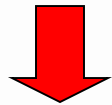Once they arrived at the coasts, captives were traded for guns and other goods.

↓

Then they were sent across the Atlantic Ocean on a brutal voyage known as the Middle Passage.

To increase their profits, some slave-ship captains crammed the maximum number of captives on board.

FIG. V.

Coupe horizontale des plateformes du Bâtiment Négrier.

FIG. IV.

La Soute

La Soute

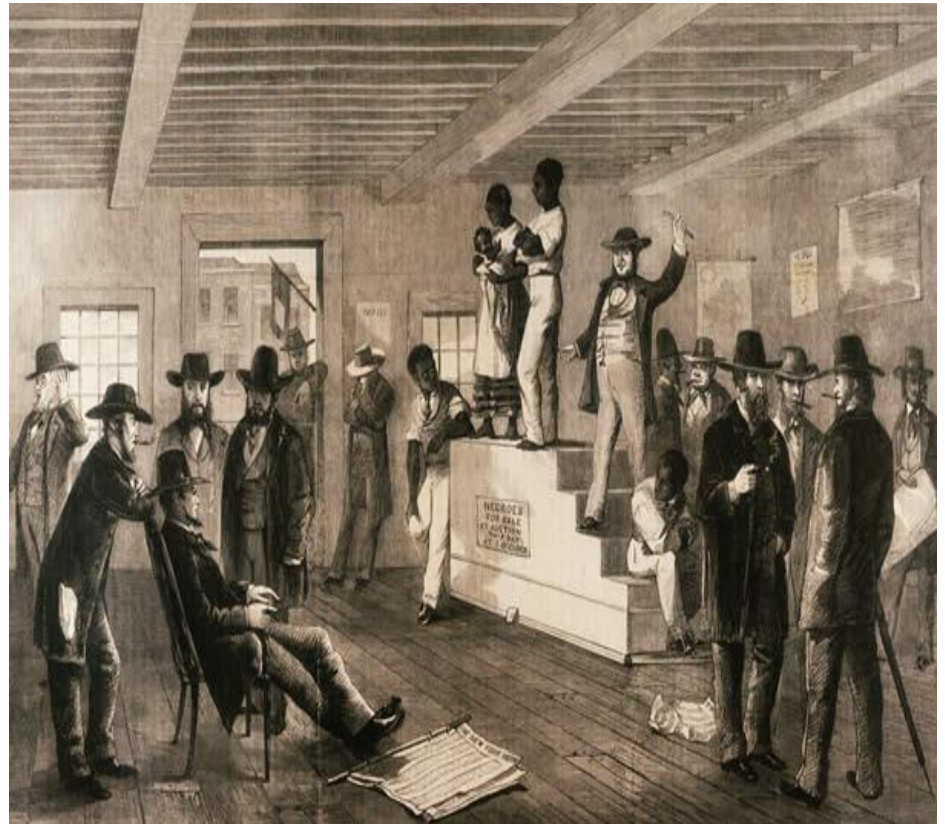Coupe horizontale du Bâtiment Négrier.

As a result of the foul conditions, 15 to 20 percent of enslaved Africans died or committed suicide during the Middle Passage.
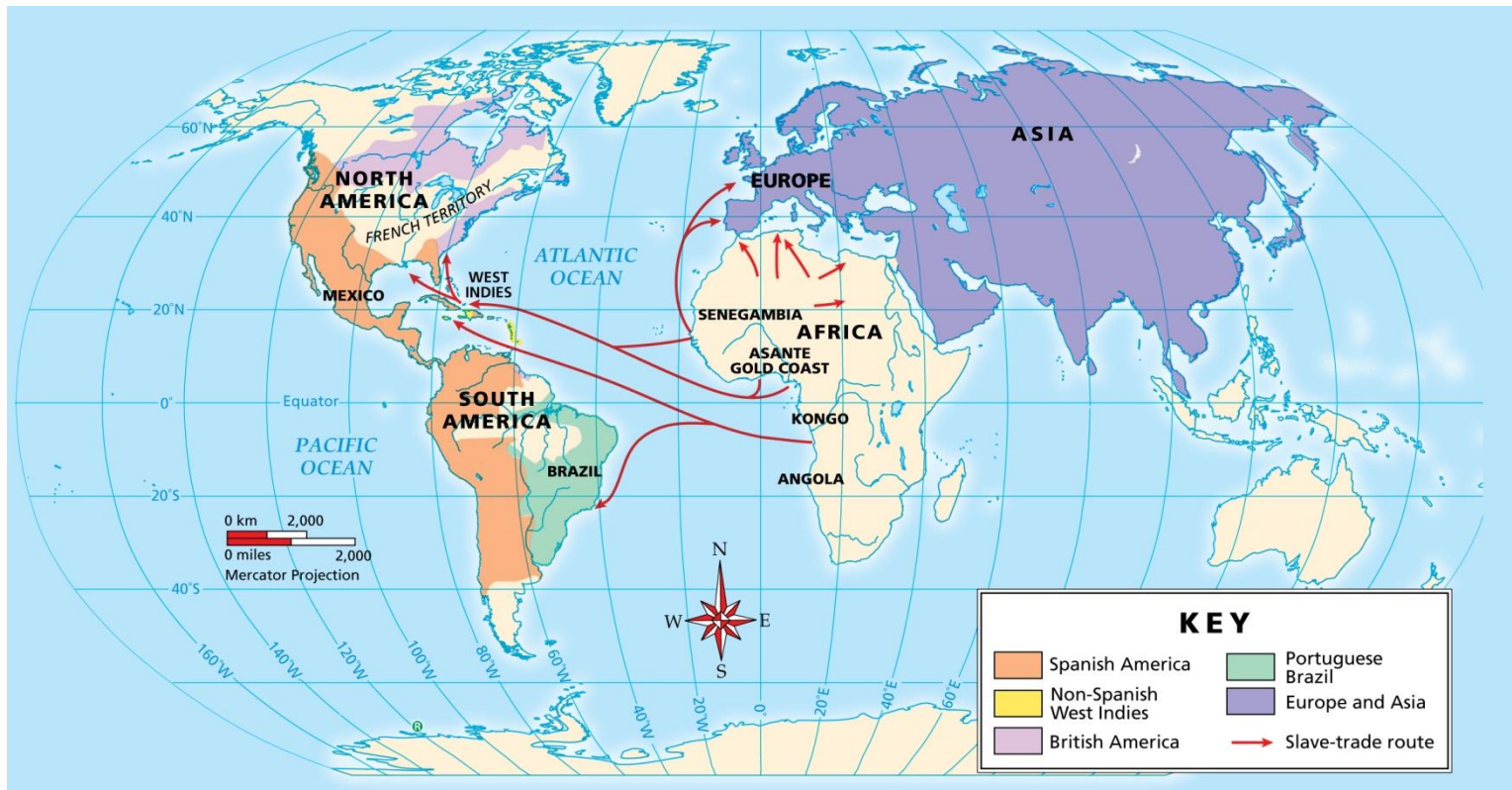
In the Americas, healthy enslaved Africans were auctioned off. Families often were separated.

About 500,000 enslaved Africans ended up in British North America.

By about 1700, slave traders in the British colonies had developed a regular routine, known as the **triangular trade.**
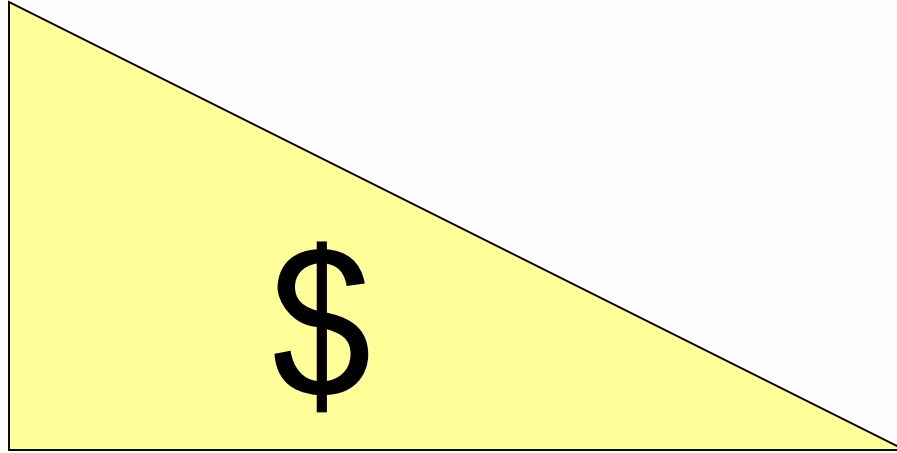
Tablet:

1. What is slavery?
2. Why did slavery exist?
3. Why was slavery allowed to exist? (why didn't people think it was wrong?)
4. Which came first, racism or slavery?
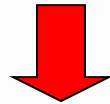5. Write down 5 facts about slavery in Colonial America.

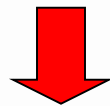| Triangular Trade	
First Leg	• New England traders sailed to the Caribbean islands, where they traded fish and lumber for sugar and molasses. • The ships then sailed back to New England, where colonists used the sugar and molasses to make rum.
Second Leg	• New England traders sailed to West Africa, where they traded rum and guns for slaves.
Third Leg	• New England traders then sailed to the Caribbean islands, where they traded slaves for more molasses.

Although the triangular trade was illegal under the Navigation Acts, many New England merchants violated the rules because it made them wealthy.

The first enslaved Africans in the colonies may have been treated as servants, and some eventually were freed.

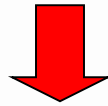But as the need for cheap labor grew, colonies made slavery permanent.

Some colonies tried to ban slavery, but it eventually became legal in all the colonies.
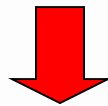
Why did slavery take root in the colonies?

- The plantation system of the southern economy came to depend on slavery.

- Planters preferred slaves because, unlike indentured servants who were set free after their terms were over, slaves were never freed.

Not every African in America was a slave, but slavery came to be restricted to people of African descent, and slavery was thus linked to **racism**.
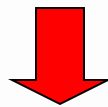
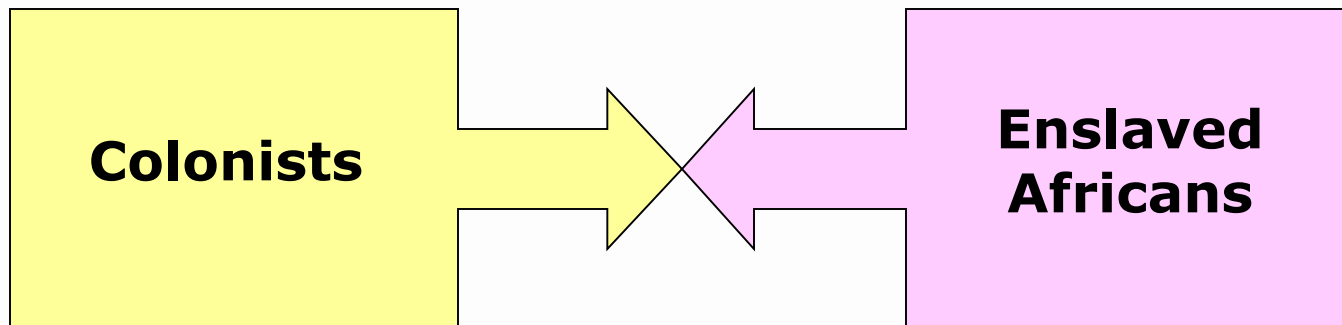Most English colonists thought they were superior to Africans.

They thought it was their duty to convert Africans to Christianity and to European ways.

There were so many slaves in the colonies that whites began to worry about slave revolts.
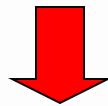
The first serious slave revolt took place in 1663 in Gloucester, Virginia, and others soon followed.

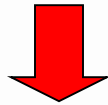**Colonists** → ← **Enslaved Africans**

Colonial authorities wrote **slave codes** that said enslaved people could not:

- meet in large numbers or own weapons.

- leave a plantation without permission.
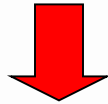
- learn to read and write.

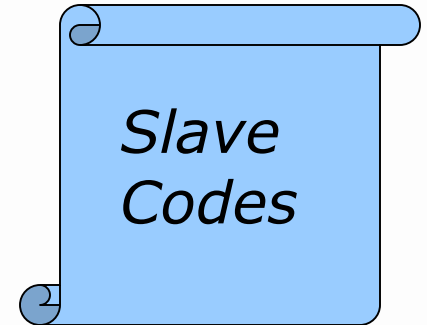Slave codes also said that masters who killed slaves could not be tried for murder.

The new codes did not stop resistance.

In 1739, twenty white colonists were killed during a slave revolt in South Carolina.

Revolts continued to flare up until slavery ended in 1865.

Slave Codes

Lives of Enslaved Africans

In the North	• Only 10 percent of the enslaved population lived north of Maryland. • Northern slaves worked as blacksmiths, house servants, or farm laborers. • Over time, they sometimes bought their freedom.
In the South	• On rice plantations in South Carolina, slaves kept the customs of West Africa. • They made African grass baskets and spoke Gullah, a dialect that blended English and several African languages.

African culture influenced American culture:

- Craftsworkers in cities used African styles of quilts, furniture, and other objects.

- African drums and banjos became part of American musical tradition.

- African folk tales became part of American culture.

1. laws that restricted the rights and activities of enslaved persons

2. commerce between the colonies, the West Indies, and Africa

3. the belief that some races are inferior to others

a. triangular trade

b. slave codes

c. Racism

d. Maximum

e. Revolt

4. Authorities established slave codes in order to prevent slaves from (having children/revolting).

5. Enslaved Africans crossed the Atlantic on a voyage that became known as the (Middle Passage/Triangular Trade).

6. Enslaved Africans were (auctioned/rented) to farm and plantation owners.

7. By the late 1600s, the southern economy had come to depend on (support from Britain/slavery).

8. Enslaved Africans on rice plantations in South Carolina spoke (Gullah/Spanish), a practice that is continued by some in the area today.

9. What were some features of the slave codes, and what was their purpose?