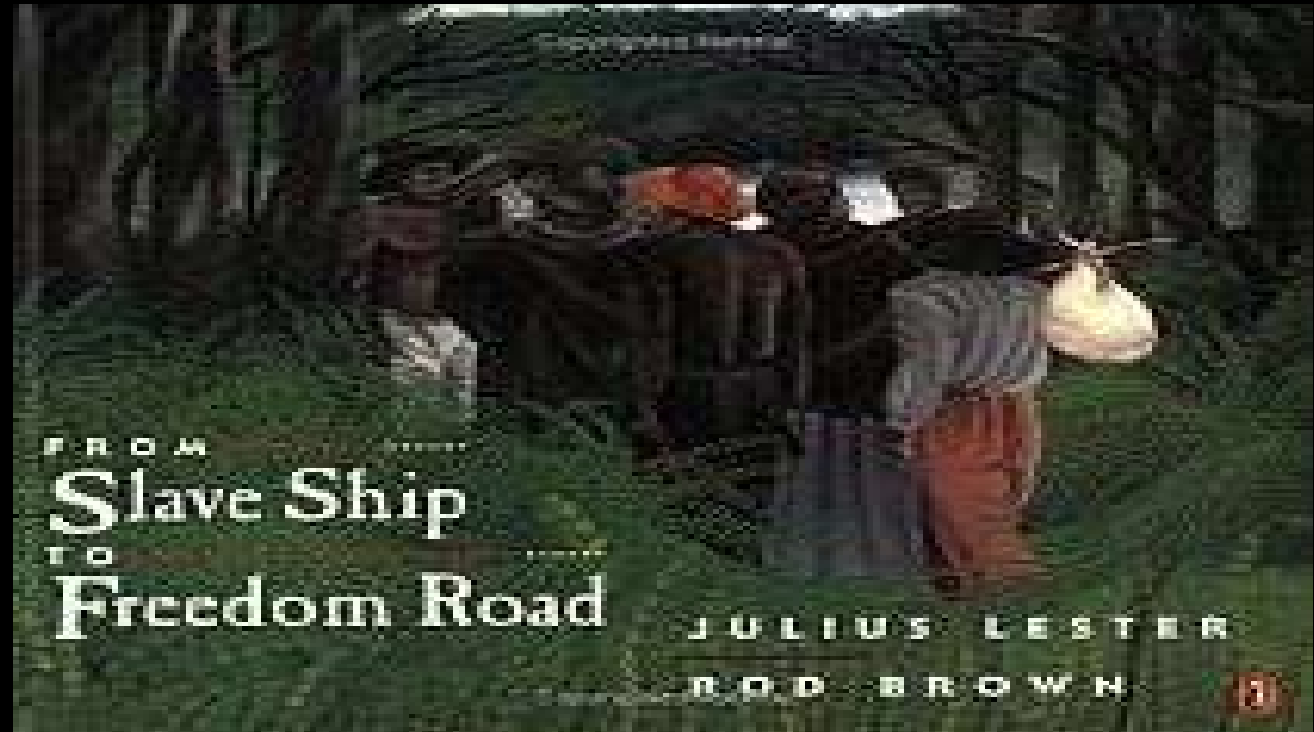


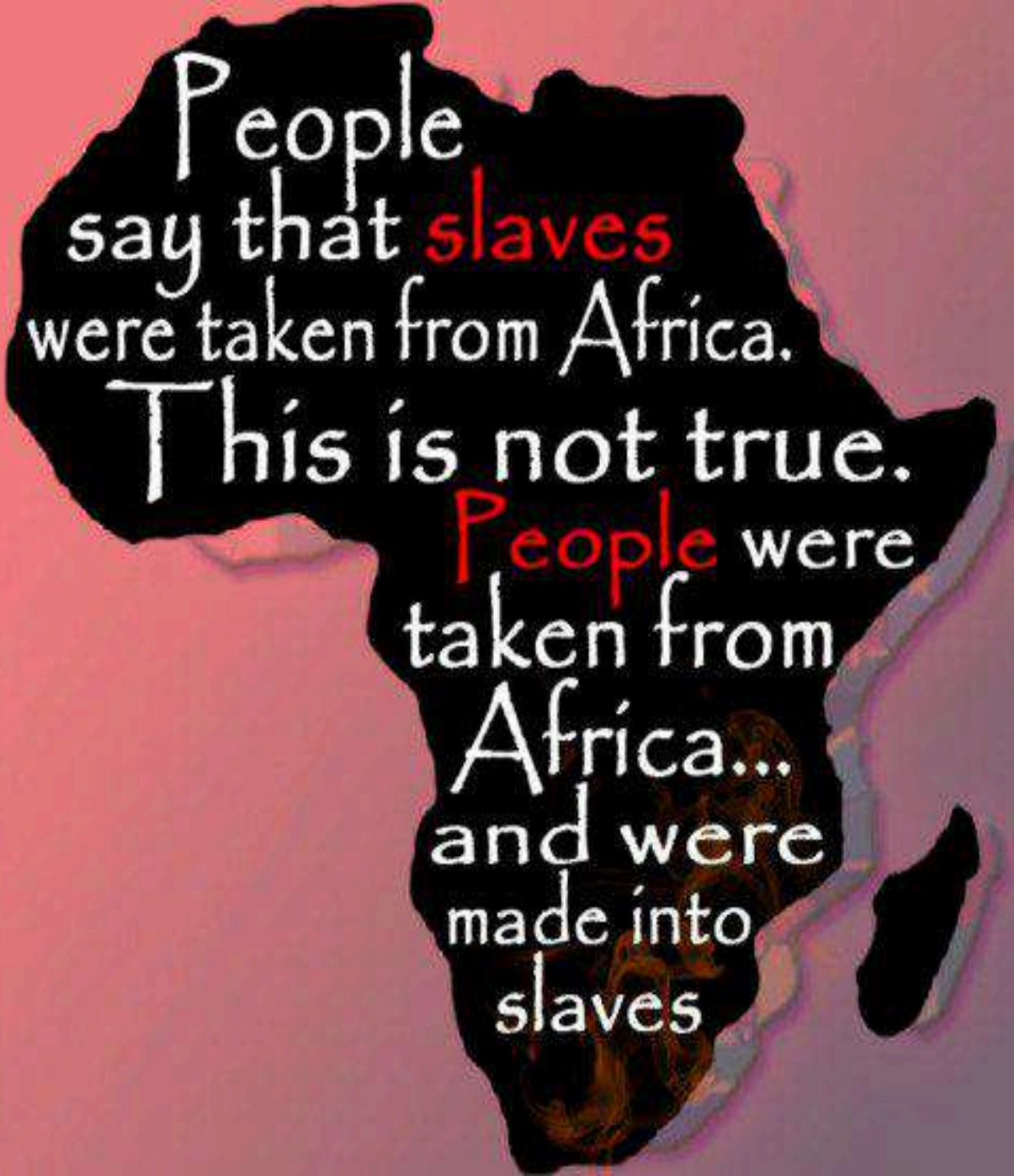
It is a sunny day. Suddenly a spaceship lands and aliens you have never seen before come out of the spaceship and drag you aboard – you, your family, neighbors, and friends. The ship takes off and flies for three months. When it lands, you are in a place you never knew existed and the people speak a language you have never heard. They have weapons that hurt, maim, and kill. They give you a new name. They do not care what your real name is or who you really are. You are their slave and you exist now to work for them.

How would you feel if this happened to you?

That question was asked by Julius Lester, author of books like To Be a Slave, which won a Newbery Award, and other books like From Slave Ship to Freedom Road from which the imagination exercise was taken.

Mr. Lester's quest is to make readers com to terms with slavery's legacy.





## Transatlantic Slave Trade

SS6H2 The student will explain the development of Latin America from European colonies to independent nations.

a. Describe the influence of African slavery on the development of the Americas.

# The Middle Passage

They took the sick and the dead and dropped them into sea like empty wine barrels. But wine barrels did not have beating hearts, crying eyes, and screaming mouths.

I think often of those ancestors of mine whose names I do not know, whose names I will never know, those ancestors who saw people thrown into the sea like promises casually made and easily broken. It was primarily the youngest and strongest who survived the Middle Passage, that three month long ocean voyage from the western shores of Africa to the so called New World. My ancestors might have been young when the slave ship left, but when it docked, they were haunted by memories of kinsmen tossed into the sea like promises never meant to be kept, and of gulls crying like mourners. They could still hear the wind wailing at the sight of black bodies bobbing in blue waters like bottles carrying notes nobody would ever read.

So many Africans were thrown into the sea, sharks swam alongside slave ships waiting for the inevitable bodies. From approximately 1518 until 1865, ships from Great Britain, Holland, Portugal, France, and the United States brought Africans to the New World to work for no money.

Millions were taken. No one knows how many millions died.

*Except the sharks.*

*J Lester*

*From Slave Ship to Freedom Road*



Side by side they lay, coffin straight, coffin narrow, coffin black  
Side by side they lay, alive, oh so alive.

J Lester



Each of the millions of Africans was, and is a story, just like you and I are stories.

Voice One: The darkness is blacker than any night. Where is my father? My mother? Do they know where I am? Why don't they come and get me? Do they know what happened to us?

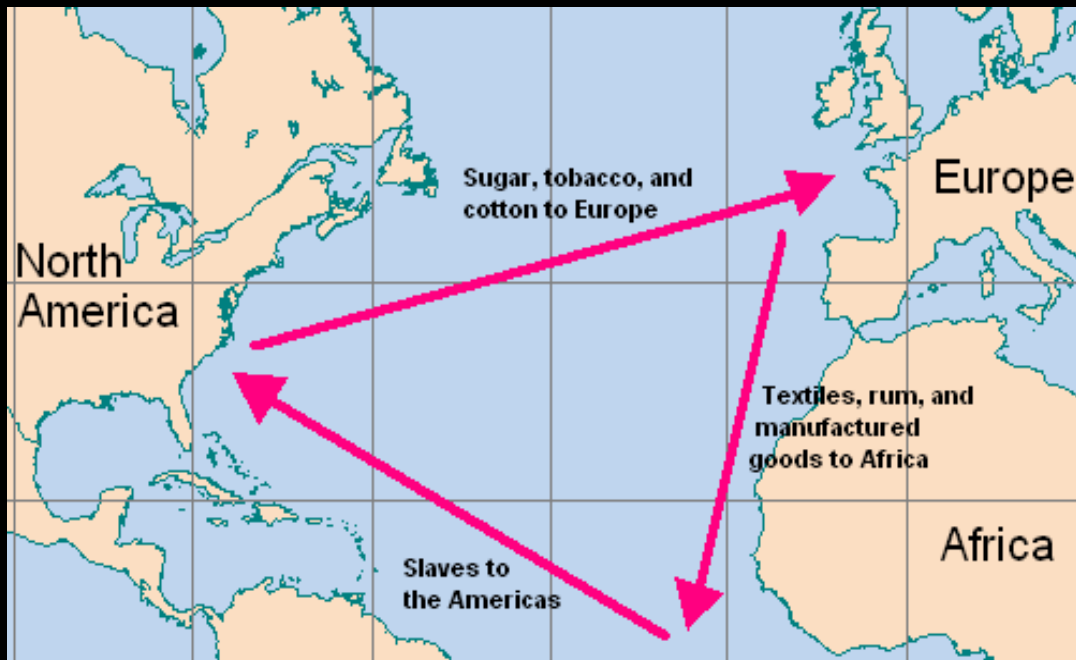
Voice Two: Our bodies do what they have to do where we lay. Urine and excrement fall on me from above, and mine onto those below. The smell is as thick as the hatred.

Voice Three: I am shackled by my wrists and ankles to a man on my right and one on my left. I can not stand. I can not turn over. I will never understand what I did to deserve this.

J Lester

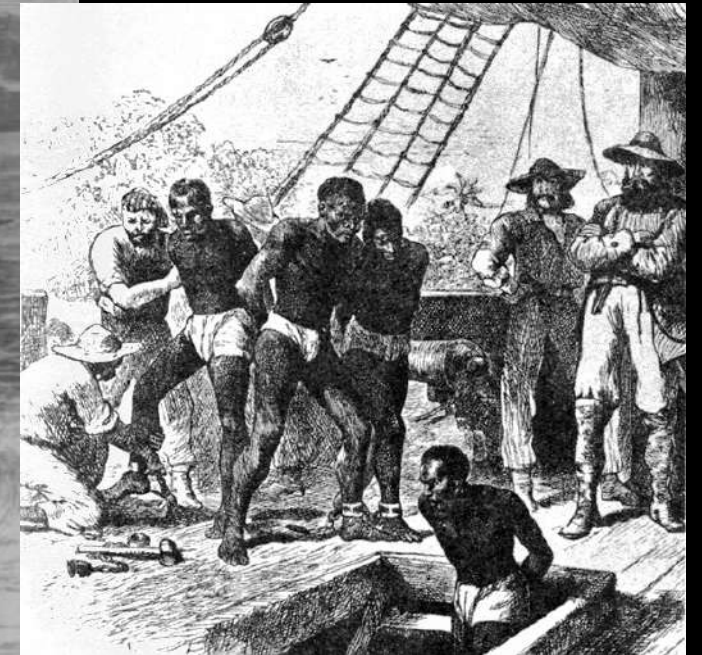
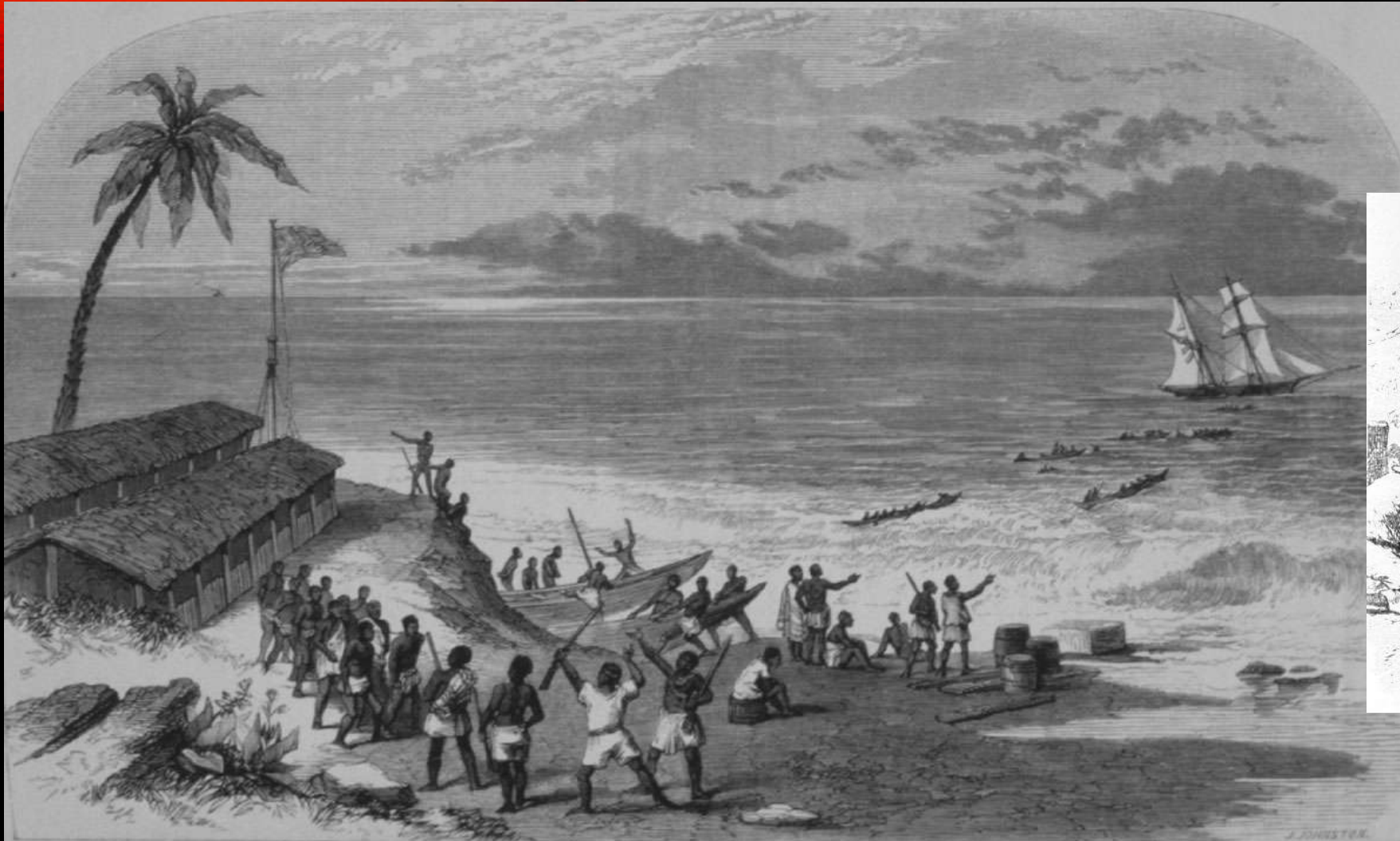
# The Triangular Trade

Why were Africans brought to the New World as slaves? It comes down to one word, economics. You and I call it MONEY. Once the European powers realized that the New World's wealth lay not only in the gold and silver that they stole from tribes like the Aztecs and the Incas, but from the land and the crops they could cultivate there, the demand for workers escalated.



At first the Portuguese in Brazil and the British in Jamaica, and a hundred other places, forced the indigenous people to work for them. This did not last long since the native peoples died by the millions from the diseases brought to the New World. Additionally, they could escape easily because they knew the surrounding areas – the rivers, the plants that were edible, the location of settlements deep in the woods....

Plantation owners then turned to Africa for a labor source.



SHIPPING SLAVES THROUGH THE SURF, WEST-AFRICAN COAST. A CRUISER SIGNALLED IN SIGHT.  
(From a Sketch by a merchant on the Coast.)

J. JOHNSON.



# SLAVE TRADE

FROM AFRICA TO THE AMERICAS

1650-1860



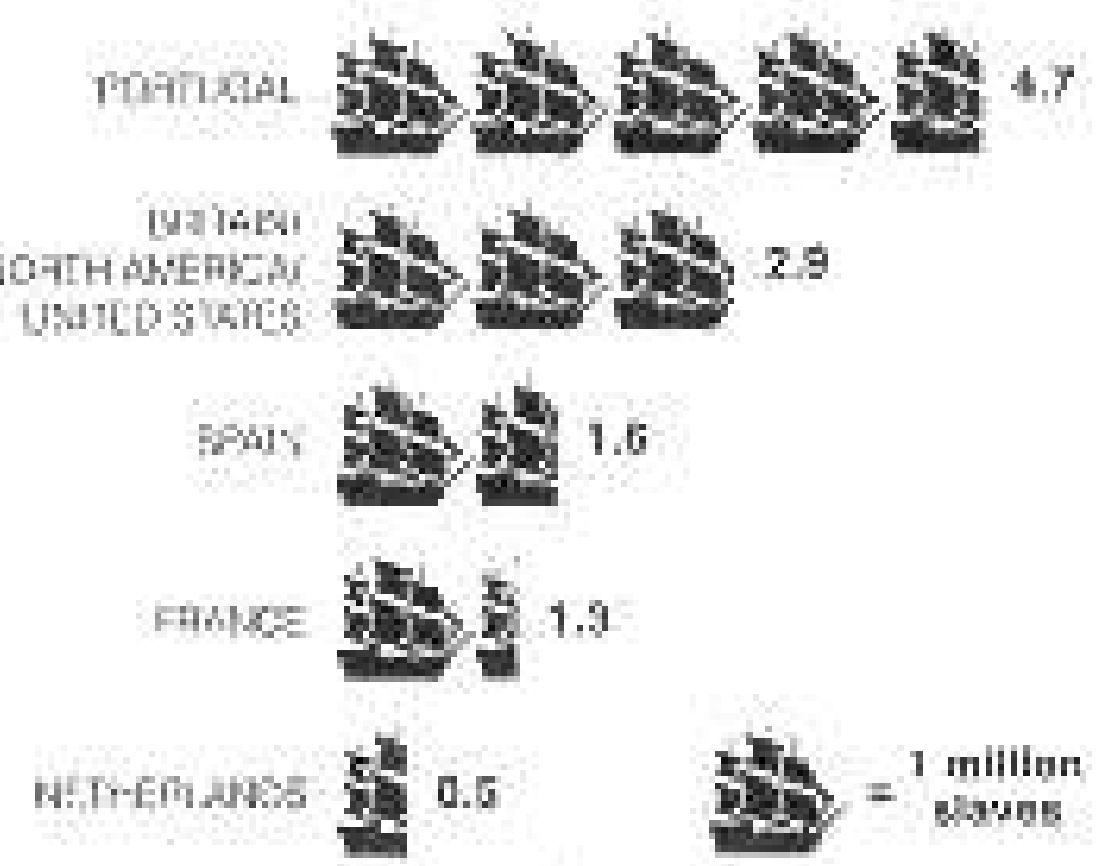
Between 1650 and 1860, approximately 10 to 15 million enslaved people were transported from western Africa to the Americas. Most were shipped to the West Indies, Central America, and South America.

# Atlantic Slave Trade: Carriers and Destinations

The number of Africans who were transported to the New World between 1520 and 1867 is estimated at 10 million to 15 million with an additional 4 million to 5 million perishing en route.

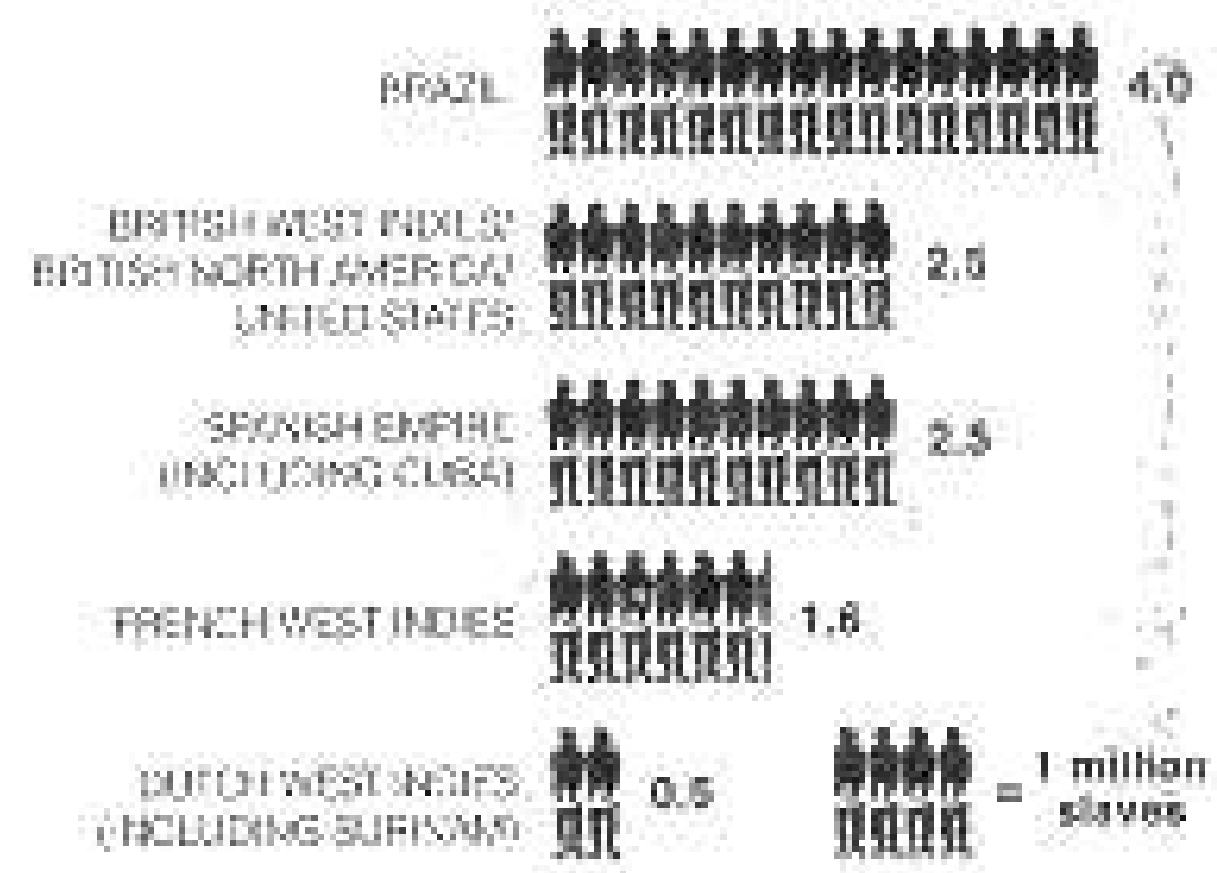
## CARRIERS

The leading slave traders.

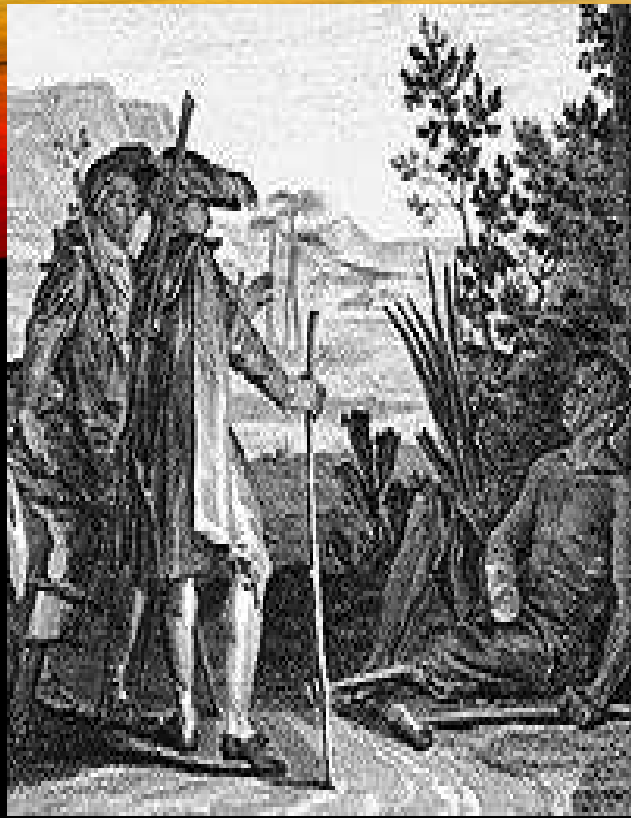


## DESTINATIONS

The main places to which slaves were delivered.



Source: "The Slave Trade" by Hugh Thomas (Simon & Schuster)



# Sugar Plantations

“It is at this price that you eat sugar in Europe.”

A slave speaks to two Europeans.

The slave's hand is gone because it got stuck in a millstone, and his leg is missing due to trying to run away.

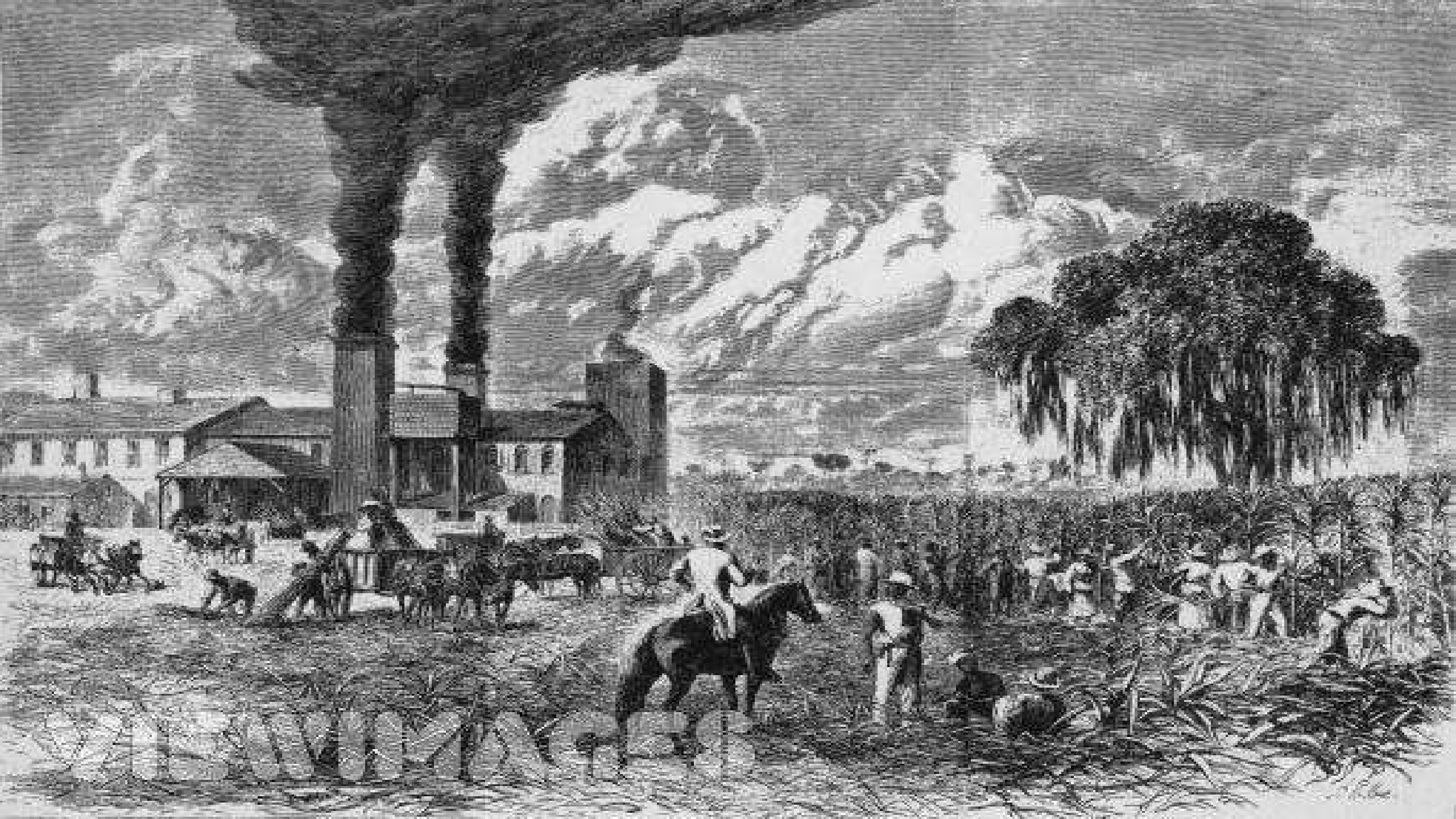
Sugar, often called white gold, was as valuable to the people of this era as oil is to us today. A large number of Africans were brought to the Americas, especially Brazil and the Caribbean Islands, to work on sugar plantations.

Working on a sugar plantation in Latin America was a harsh and dangerous existence. The average life expectancy of an imported slave was only seven years, but many died within the first year after they arrived.

# A Day in the Life of a Slave on a Sugar Plantation

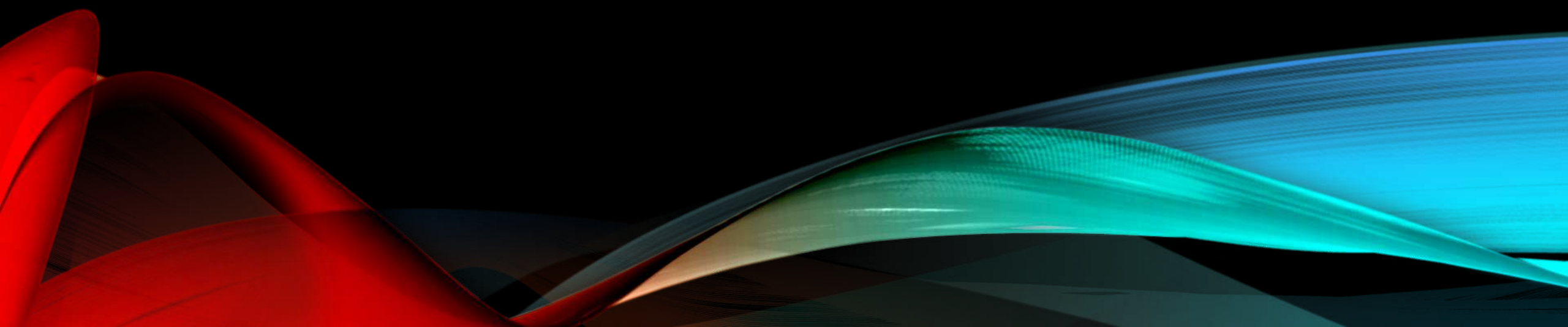
At four o'clock in the morning the plantation bell rings to call the slaves into the field.... About nine o'clock they have half an hour for breakfast, which they take into the field. Again they fall to work... until eleven o'clock or noon; the bell rings and the slaves are dispersed in the neighbourhood to pick up natural grass and weeds for the horses and cattle (and to prepare and eat their own lunch)... At two o'clock, the bell summons them to deliver in their grass and to work in the fields... About half an hour before sunset they are again required to collect grass - about seven o'clock in the evening or later according to season - deliver grass as before. The slaves are then dismissed to return to their huts, picking up brushwood or dry cow dung to prepare supper and tomorrow's breakfast. They go to sleep at about midnight.

James Ramsay Essay on the Treatment and Conversion of African Slaves in the British Sugar Colonies (1784)



“I do not know if coffee and sugar are essential to the happiness of Europe, but I know well that these two products have accounted for the unhappiness of two great regions of the worlds: America has been depopulated so as to have land on which to plant them; Africa has been depopulated so as to have people to cultivate them.”

Voyage to Isle de France by J H Bernardin Saint de Pierre (1773)

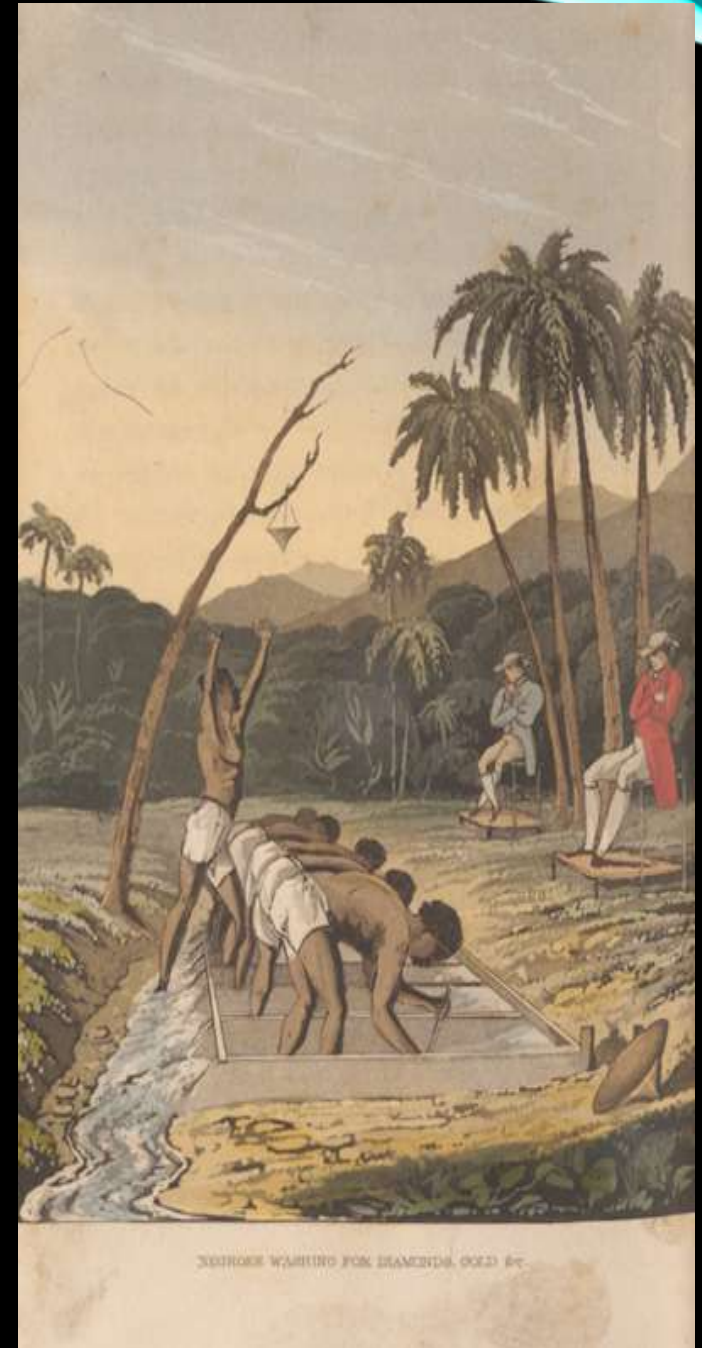


# Slave Resistance



All over Latin America, slave revolts were common due to the inhumane treatment of Africans. They were malnourished, overworked, and put into dangerous working conditions. Harsh punishments were common place.

Some slaves ran away and built villages, called maroons, deep in the jungle or in isolated mountains areas. Some of these communities are still thriving today.



# A Freed Slave Educates the British on the Horrors of Slavery

Olaudah Equiano, was captured and sold as a slave. Olaudah Equiano, was captured and sold as a slave. He later earned his freedom, and wrote his memoir which was published in 1789, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African.

*I was soon put down under the decks, and there I received such a greeting in my nostrils as I had never experienced in my life; so that, with the loathsomeness of the stench, and crying together, I became so sick and low that I was not able to eat, nor had I the least desire to taste anything. I now wished for the last friend, death, to relieve me; but soon, to my grief, two of the white men offered me eatables; and, on my refusing to eat, one of them held me fast by the hands, and laid me across, I think, the windlass, and tied my feet, while the other flogged me severely..... The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, added to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us. The air soon became unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells, and brought on a sickness among the slaves, of which many died. The wretched situation was again aggravated by the chains, now unsupportable, and the filth of the necessary tubs, into which the children often fell, and were almost suffocated. The shrieks of the women, and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole scene of horror almost inconceivable.*



# Who was Olaudah Equiano?

c. 1745 – 31 March 1797

**Olaudah Equiano**, known in his lifetime as **Gustavus Vassa**, was a prominent African in London, a freed slave who supported the British movement to end the slave trade.

His last owner was Robert King, an American Quaker merchant who allowed Equiano to trade on his own account and purchase his freedom in 1766. Equiano settled in England in 1767 and worked and traveled for another 20 years as a seafarer, merchant, and explorer in the Caribbean, the Arctic, the American colonies, South and Central America, and the United Kingdom.

In London, Gustavus Vassa was part of the Sons of Africa, an abolitionist group composed of prominent Africans living in Britain, and he was active among leaders of the anti-slave trade movement in the 1780s. He published his autobiography, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano (1789), which depicted the horrors of slavery. It aided in the passage of the British Slave Trade Act of 1807, which abolished the African slave trade.

# Slavery is Abolished

Year	Country
1801	Haiti outlaws all slavery after its war for independence 1 <sup>st</sup> anti-slavery nation in world
1819	Portugal outlaws slavery north of the equator
1824 - 1829	Guatemala, Argentina, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Mexico
1833	Great Britain
1840 – 1845	Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador
1849	France
1858	Portugal abolishes slavery in its colonies, although all slaves are subject to a 20-year apprenticeship
1863	Netherlands
1865	United States
1878	Portugal outlaws slavery in its African colonies
1886	Cuba
1888	Brazil

**THE**

**AFRO**

**LATINO**

**CONNECTION**

The legacy of the over 12 million Africans brought to the Americas as slaves can still be seen in Latin America today. The African culture has blended with Amerindian and European cultures to produce a rich cultural heritage.

# Latino – African Connection



## TOWNS WITH AFRICAN NAMES IN MEXICO



STRIEWA  
Emancipation Statue, Barbados

