

Triangular Trade

Unit Eight Notes

Name: _____

Disease Kills Native Americans

- With the arrival of the Europeans, the demand for slaves in the Americas increased significantly.
- As disease reduced the native populations in Spanish conquered territories, the Spanish began relying on imported slaves from Africa for forced labor.

Portuguese Slave Trade

- The Portuguese population was too small to provide a large number of colonists.
- The sugar plantations required a large labor force.
- Slaves filled this demand.



**Europeans and Africans
Meet to Trade**

Slave Trade and Sugar

- Portuguese crop growers extended the use of slave labor to South America.
- Because of this, Brazil would eventually become the wealthiest of the sugar-producing lands in the western hemisphere.



**"...COFFEE, CHOCOLATE AND TEA –
ALL HAD A NATURALLY BITTER TASTE.
WHAT MADE THEM PALATABLE TO
EUROPEANS WAS THE ADDITION OF
SUGAR. WITHOUT [SLAVERY] THERE
WOULD HAVE BEEN NO SUGAR..."**

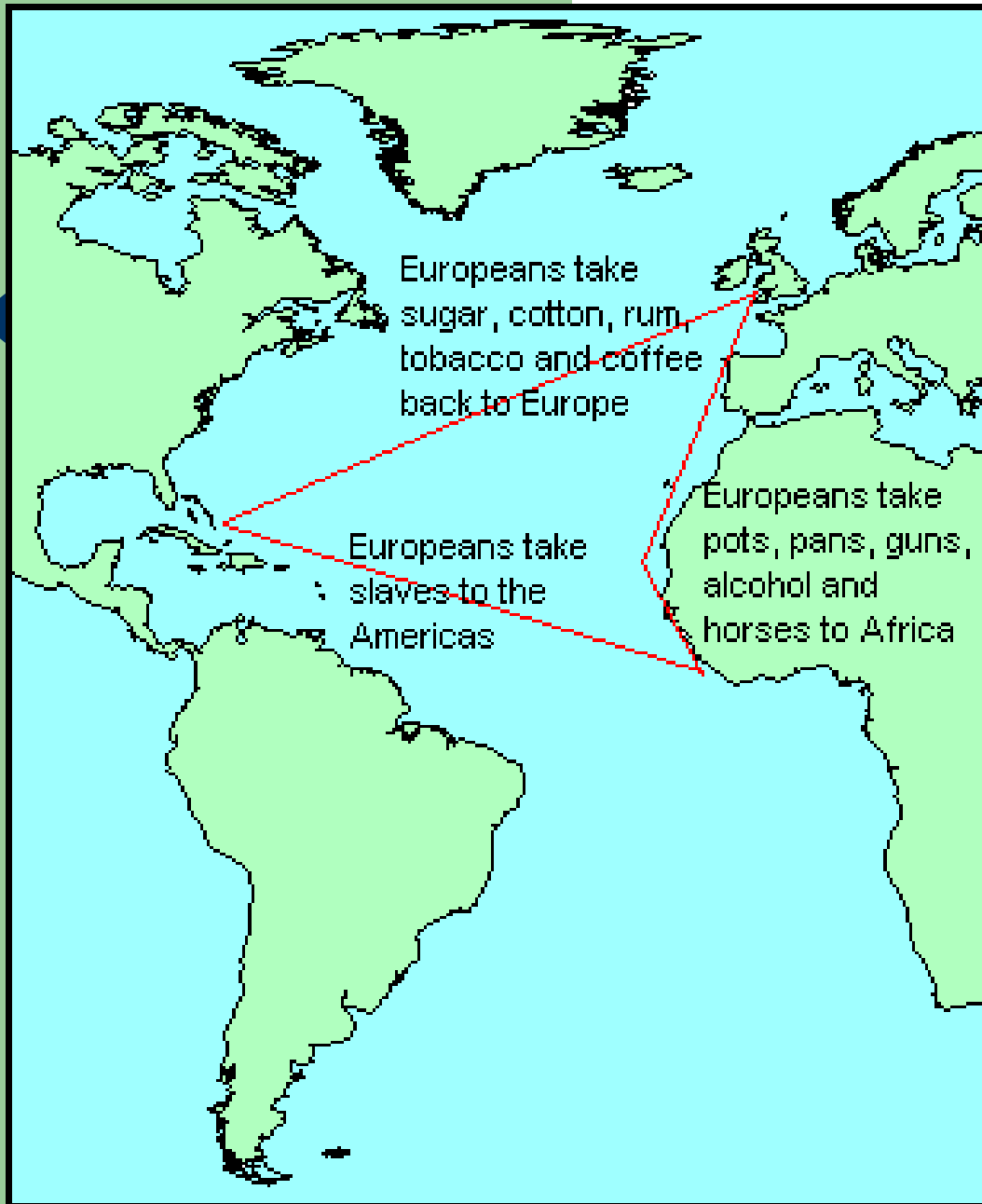
James Walvin



Slavery Expands

- In 1518, the first shipment of slaves went directly from West Africa to the Caribbean where the slaves worked on sugar plantations.
- By the 1520s, the Spanish had introduced slaves to Mexico, Peru, and Central America where they worked as farmers and miners.
- By the early 17th century, the British had introduced slaves to North America.

Triangular Trade Route



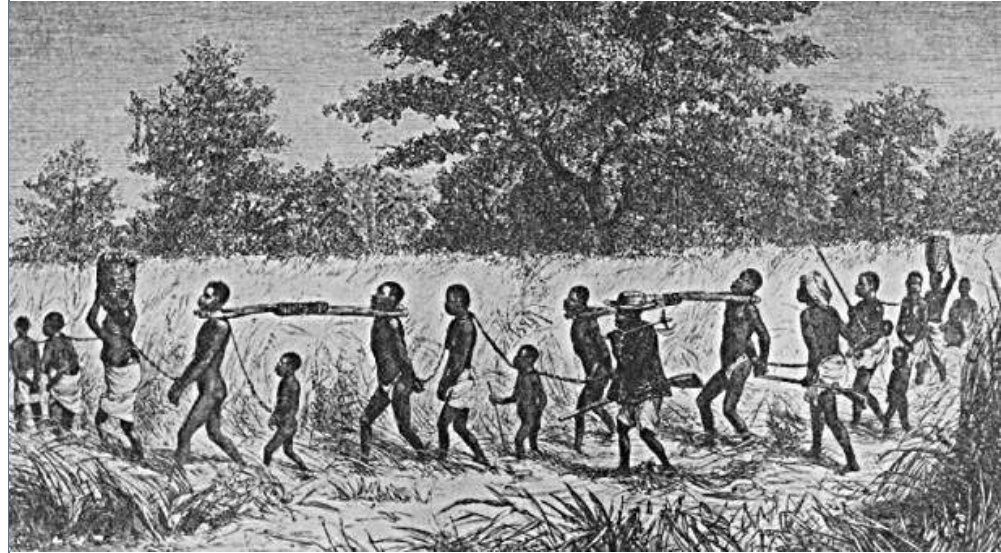
The demand for labor in the western hemisphere encouraged a money-making triangular trading pattern.

Triangular Trade

- The triangular trade demonstrates how people were reduced to commodities to be sold.
- Goods such as metal, cloth, beads and guns went from Europe to Africa, enslaved Africans went to America and the Caribbean, and raw products such as sugar, tobacco and cotton came back to Europe.

Capture

- The original capture of slaves was almost always violent.
- As European demand grew, African chieftains organized raiding parties to seize individuals from neighboring societies.
- Others launched wars specifically for the purpose of capturing slaves.



“Africans became enslaved mainly through four ways:

first, criminals sold by the chiefs as punishment;
secondly, free Africans obtained from raids by African and a few European gangs;
thirdly, domestic slaves resold, and
fourthly; prisoners of war.”

(Adu Boahen (University of Ghana)).

Africans in the Americas

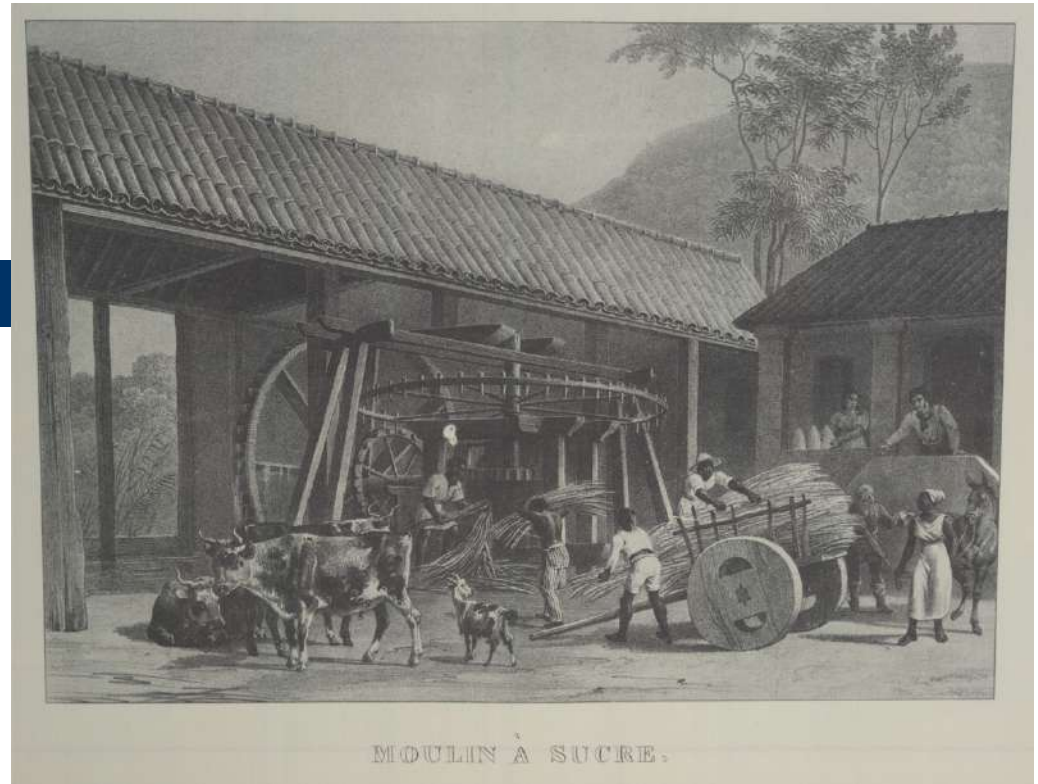
- As the major European powers of Portugal, Britain, France, and the Netherlands looked for ways to exploit the fertile lands of the New World, they looked to Africa for a steady supply of labor.
- Soon, African slaves had become absolutely vital to the cultivation of sugar, tobacco, cotton, and rice plantations.
- As European demand for sugar began to increase, plantations began to spring up throughout Brazil and the Caribbean.
- Sugar cultivation created a huge demand for slave labor from Africa.
- Many plantations produced additional crops such as indigo, rice, tobacco, and coffee.

Plantations

- After crossing the Atlantic, most African slaves went to plantations in the tropical or subtropical regions of the western hemisphere.
- The first was established by the Spanish on Hispaniola in 1516.
- Originally the predominant crop was sugar. In addition to sugar, plantations produced crops like tobacco, indigo, and cotton.
- 1530s--Portuguese began organizing plantations in Brazil, and Brazil became the world's leading supplier of sugar.

Plantations

- All were designed to export commercial crops for profit.
- Relied almost exclusively on large amounts of slave labor supervised by small numbers of European or Euro-American managers.



Brazilian sugar mill in the 1830s

Impact of Triangular Trade

● Cultural Diffusion:

- The slave trade spread ideas & goods between cultures.
- Europeans brought new weapons to Africa.
- Africans brought part of their culture (music, traditions, food, language, etc.) to the Americas.