



# Indentured Servitude vs. Slavery



# African Slaves

	1670	1770
North	1,125	3,410
South	48,460	411,362

# The First Arrivals

- 1619 in Jamestown
- 20 Africans brought by the Dutch and traded to the English
- English used them as workers on tobacco plantations
- By 1660, slavery as we know it was established in Virginia



NPS image

In a detail from NPS artist Keith Rocco's painting of a Jamestown waterside scene in the 1660s, enslaved African load hogshead barrels of tobacco aboard a ship bound for England.



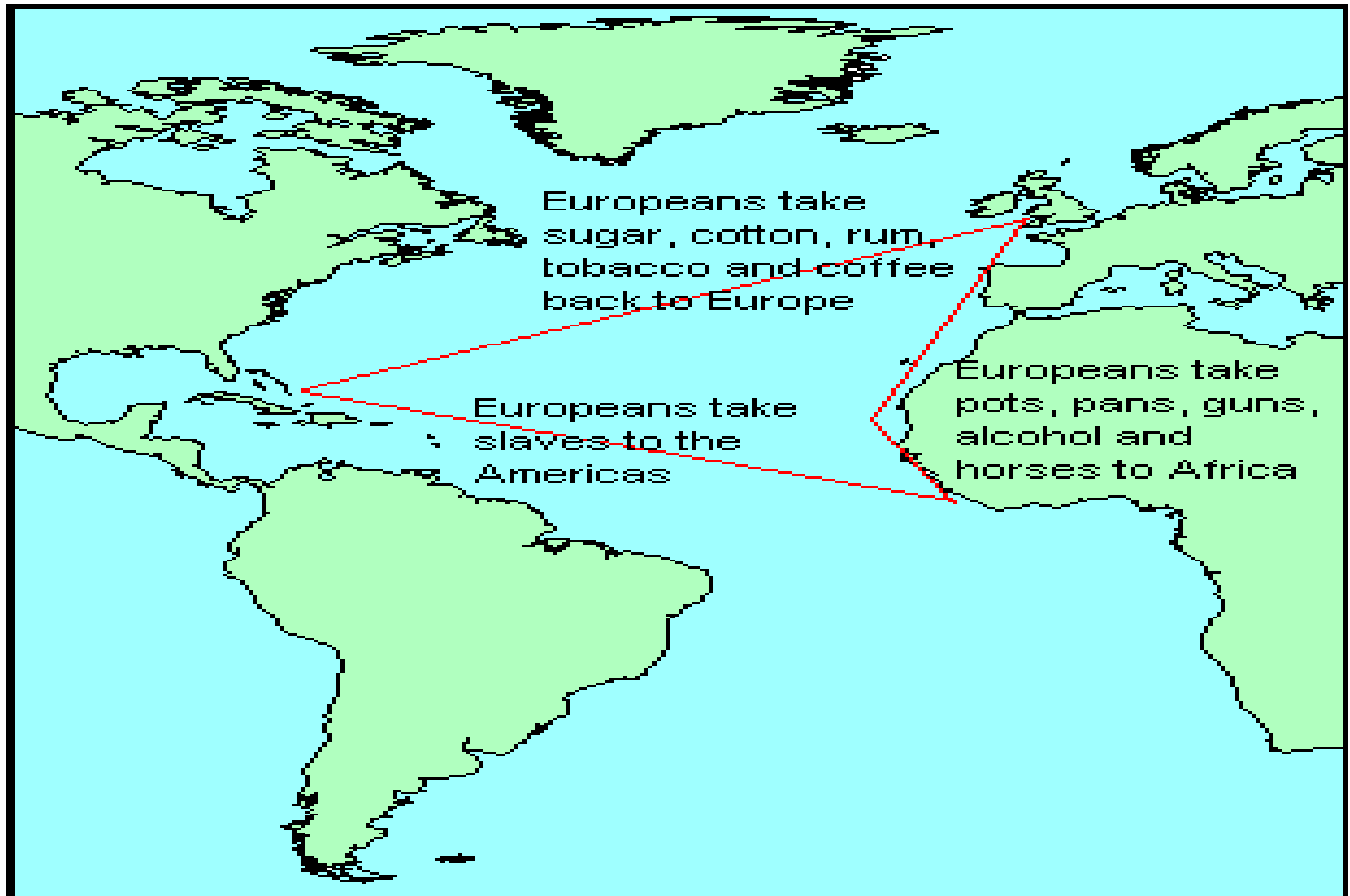
## NPS Image

In a detail from NPS artist Keith Rocco's painting of a Jamestown waterside scene in the 1660s, newly-arrived Africans are inspected by an English settler.

# Royal African Company

- English slave trading company
- Founded in 1672
- Has a monopoly on the slave trade in the colonies until 1698
- Agents in Virginia received a 7 percent commission on sales
- Planters complained that the company was not supplying them with enough slaves
- Stopped trading slaves in 1731 in favor of gold dust and ivory

# Triangular Trade



# Indentured Servants





# The Original Workers

- Men, women, and sometimes children from Great Britain
- Sign a contract tying you to your master for 4-7 years, no marriage and no bearing children
- Servant got: passage from England, food, clothing, shelter, (salary?)
- Master: property, could sell or transfer the rights of your servant

# Indentured Servants

- If caught trying to escape, they were given a longer length of servitude
- Permission from masters was required to leave colony, work for someone else or keep money for personal use
- Approximately 1/2 of the European population that came to the colonies started as indentures, up to 90% of population that settled in Chesapeake area (Virginia)
- Men bricklayer, joiner, plasterer, cook, clerk, gardener, coachman, butcher, blacksmith, and musician
- Women performed domestic chores like laundry, sewing, and housekeeping

# Convicts

- Used as a labor force as well
- Ran away more frequently and not as trusted as indentured servants
- Largely male, young, poor and unskilled
- Length of servitude was longer than indentured usually
- Possibly 1/4<sup>th</sup> of British immigrants to the 13 Colonies were convicts

# Questions

- The argument is often made that indentured servants were not the same as slaves. Is this statement accurate?
- Slavery continues to become less and less popular in the north, however the concept of indentured servitude remains well through the 18th century. Why would slavery remain strong in the south while in the north it virtually dies out?