

Name

Class

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## **Chapter 2**

### **Multiple Choice**

1. Which European nation pioneered the navigation of the west coast of Africa?

- a. Spain
- b. Portugal
- c. England
- d. France

ANSWER:

b

2. Which task was initially assigned to African workers in the Spanish colony on Hispaniola?

- a. Working in the gold and copper mines
- b. Harvesting sugar on the plantations
- c. Growing rice and other cash crops
- d. Helping to enslave the native population

ANSWER:

a

3. Why did Africans have some immunity to the diseases of Europeans?

- a. Africans and Europeans lived in the same hemisphere and were thus exposed to many of the same diseases.
- b. Europeans had intentionally exposed enslaved Africans to diseases early on.
- c. All the diseases that afflicted Europeans had originated from the African continent.
- d. European diseases had no effect on people living outside of Europe.

ANSWER:

a

4. How might the history of slavery have been different had European nations not established colonies in the New World?

- a. The English would have been the first Europeans to enslave Africans.
- b. The transatlantic slave trade would have taken much longer to develop.
- c. Europeans would have had no incentive to exploit the labor of enslaved Africans.
- d. The European use of African slaves would have been limited to Europe and the islands off the coast of Africa.

ANSWER:

d

5. Which of these factors might have made the European enslavement of Native Americans more successful?

- a. Official sanction from the Catholic Church
- b. Native resistance to common European diseases
- c. Absence of a supply of enslaved Africans
- d. Faster oceangoing vessels capable of crossing the Atlantic more quickly

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ANSWER: b

6. How could officials in the Catholic Church have possibly limited the emergence of the transatlantic slave trade?

- a. By resisting efforts to convert Native Americans to Christianity
- b. By encouraging the Spanish to focus on mining gold instead of growing cash crops
- c. By arguing against the enslavement of Africans, as they had against Native American slavery
- d. By facilitating the development of English, Dutch, and French colonies in the New World

ANSWER: c

7. Which of the following would have prevented the advent of the triangle trade?

- a. Increased conflict between Spain and Portugal
- b. The possession of gunpowder weapons among African rulers
- c. A lack of ships capable of crossing the Atlantic
- d. An inability among Europeans to speak any African languages

ANSWER: c

8. How might various African rulers have successfully avoided participating in the transatlantic slave trade?

- a. By permitting European slave traders to carry out kidnappings in their territory
- b. By insisting that African slavery be limited to the African continent
- c. By allying with their neighbors to resist European traders instead of raiding each other
- d. By pleading with the Catholic Church for assistance

ANSWER: c

9. Why did Portuguese slave traders sniff and lick the enslaved Africans held in barracoons?

- a. To determine whether they were fit to be sold as slaves
- b. To discern whether they had an illness
- c. To intentionally humiliate them
- d. To satisfy their curiosity about separate races

ANSWER: a

10. Which of these was the greatest concern among the crews of European slave ships?

- a. The rough seas along the African coast
- b. Mutiny among the enslaved
- c. The dangerous trek across the Atlantic
- d. Exposure to American diseases

ANSWER: b

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11. Which factor might have prevented an enslaved African from being purchased and brought to the New World?

- a. Being old and relatively unhealthy
- b. Being from a hostile African society
- c. Being able to speak a European language
- d. Being a member of a large family

*ANSWER:*

a

12. Which of the following best describes barracoons?

- a. Underground dungeons
- b. Comfortable lodgings to keep African slaves alive for as long as possible
- c. Temporary barracks
- d. Adapted homes

*ANSWER:*

c

13. What might have made slave insurrections in the barracoons more likely?

- a. If the enslaved were not locked inside cells
- b. If the barracoons were located closer to the interior of the continent
- c. If the enslaved were able to navigate the surrounding countryside
- d. If the forts were surrounded by sympathetic Africans

*ANSWER:*

d

14. What prevented many European slave traders from making efforts to improve conditions on slave ships?

- a. They were too afraid of mutinies.
- b. The Catholic Church forbade them from doing so.
- c. Their principal concern was maximizing profit.
- d. They did not know how to improve the conditions.

*ANSWER:*

c

15. Which of these might have made insurrections aboard slave ships more common?

- a. The presence of both men and women aboard the same ships
- b. A history of oceangoing experience among the enslaved
- c. Knowledge of what fate awaited the enslaved
- d. Greater interaction between enslaved men and women, who had more mobility on the ships

*ANSWER:*

d

16. Europeans established trade relationships with West Africans during the precolonial period in order to

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- a. enslave West Africans to help support industrialization of their nation-states.
- b. find gold and other luxury goods to enrich their treasuries to pay their armies.
- c. discourage a trade relationship between West Africa and Asian markets.
- d. gain knowledge from the West Africans about shipbuilding.

ANSWER:

b

17. What caused the Spaniards to replace the Taino Indians with Africans in the gold and copper mines of Hispaniola?

- a. The Africans were immune to European diseases.
- b. The Taino were poor miners and were more suited for agricultural work.
- c. The conquistadores viewed the Taino as their equals.
- d. The Catholic Church outlawed the enslavement of the indigenous people.

ANSWER:

a

18. What type of ship allowed European sailors to travel through the rough waters south of Cape Bojador?

- a. Dhow
- b. Caravels
- c. Sloops
- d. Canoes

ANSWER:

b

19. Why did sugarcane become a staple crop on Spanish plantations in the Americas?

- a. Spain had experienced cultivating the sugarcane with forced labor on the Canary Islands.
- b. Sugarcane was one of the few crops that grew in the sandy soil of the Caribbean.
- c. Indians had experience growing sugarcane before the arrival of Europeans.
- d. Demand for sugar increased in Europe because it was believed to have medicinal purposes.

ANSWER:

a

20. In the fifteenth century, why did Portuguese slave traders make commercial treaties with African rulers on the West African coast rather than invade their kingdoms and take war captives?

- a. The Catholic Church issued a papal decree requiring the practice.
- b. It was cheaper for them to purchase slaves from the internal slave trade in Africa.
- c. West African kingdoms organized a successful defense of their coastlines.
- d. The Treaty of Tordesillas required Portugal to purchase slaves rather than kidnap them.

ANSWER:

c

21. What was one of the impacts of the transatlantic slave trade on West Africa?

- a. Entire regions were depopulated.

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- b. Plantation-style agriculture took hold.
- c. Kingdoms became wealthy and prosperous.
- d. Christianity became the dominant religion.

ANSWER:

a

22. What system did Spain use in the first few decades of the sixteenth century to extract forced labor and tribute from American Indians?

- a. Headright
- b. Indentured servitude
- c. Asiento
- d. Encomienda

ANSWER:

d

23. What caused the Taino population to drop from 500,000 to a few hundred by 1542?

- a. Brutal military campaigns conducted by Spanish conquistadores
- b. Old World diseases, such as smallpox, chicken pox, mumps, and measles
- c. Enslavement in silver and gold mines and sugar plantations
- d. Civil war between rival indigenous factions

ANSWER:

b

24. Why did the Spanish start replacing indigenous labor with African slave labor in the sixteenth century?

- a. Indigenous rebellions forced the Spanish to abandon the practice of enslaving Indians.
- b. African slaves knew how to plant sugar, but Indian slaves did not.
- c. African slaves were less likely to resist enslavement than Indian slaves.
- d. The indigenous population rapidly declined mostly due to disease.

ANSWER:

d

25. What role did fortifications, such as Elmina Castle on the western coast of Ghana, play for European traders?

- a. They helped Europeans attack African kingdoms in order to kidnap slaves.
- b. They provided protection for ships seeking shelter from bad weather.
- c. They served as trading centers for the transatlantic slave trade.
- d. They helped to form allegiances with West African kingdoms.

ANSWER:

c

26. Why were the earliest slaves sent to the New World shipped from Lisbon, Portugal, rather than directly from West Africa?

- a. A papal bull gave Portugal control over the transatlantic slave trade.

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- b. Spain prevented the shipment of slaves directly from West Africa to America.
- c. The Treaty of Tordesillas gave Portugal control over trade in Africa and Asia.
- d. Lisbon was a shorter distance to travel than from slave ports in West Africa.

ANSWER:

c

27. Who were bozales in Spain's New World colonies?

- a. African slaves born in America
- b. Slaves born free in Africa
- c. Freed African slaves
- d. Freed Indian slaves

ANSWER:

b

28. What did the asiento system change about the slave trade at the end of the sixteenth century?

- a. It allowed Spain to monopolize the transatlantic slave trade and prevent other nations from participating.
- b. It gave the Dutch control over the trade until the eighteenth century.
- c. It temporarily halted the slave trade while Spain and Portugal were at war.
- d. It allowed Portuguese merchants to ship enslaved Africans directly from Africa to New Spain.

ANSWER:

d

29. Why did the Dutch and, later, the British ultimately dominate the transatlantic slave trade for the latter half of the seventeenth century and all of the eighteenth century?

- a. Slave rebellions in New Spain convinced the Spanish crown to abandon the slave trade.
- b. Portugal and Spain outlawed the slave trade in their colonies after petitions from Dominican friars.
- c. The Dutch waged a war against Portugal and Spain for control of the trade.
- d. Portugal and Spain became enemies and transferred their business to the Dutch and then to the British.

ANSWER:

d

30. Captives from the interior regions of Africa reached the West African coast

- a. by traveling in large caravans carried by camels.
- b. in chained groups called coffles.
- c. in small boats along riverways.
- d. in large wagons called barracoons.

ANSWER:

b

31. What were the outdoor pens called in which slaves were held before boarding slave ships bound to the Americas?

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- a. Coffles
- b. Door of no return
- c. Barracoons
- d. Slave holes

ANSWER:

c

32. Why did captives in Africa often believe that European slave traders were cannibals who planned on eating them once they arrived on board the slave ship?

- a. Slave traders encouraged the belief to instill fear in their captives.
- b. The fear of cannibalism was a part of African lore about dangerous foreign people.
- c. Cannibalism was a part of the slave trade in Africa, and they assumed they would meet the same fate.
- d. It was a fate preferable to enslavement in the Americas.

ANSWER:

b

33. Why did some slave traders prefer “tight packing” their captives on board slave ships instead of “loose packing”?

- a. Tight packing maximized profits by shipping as many slaves as possible.
- b. It confined living conditions, which allowed families to stay together.
- c. It reduced the number of insurrections on board.
- d. It allowed traders to negotiate conditions on board with slaves.

ANSWER:

a

34. On board slave ships, captives were separated from their families and divided by

- a. class.
- b. age.
- c. gender.
- d. weight.

ANSWER:

c

35. Throughout the slave trade, men outnumbered women by a ratio of

- a. ten to one.
- b. five to one.
- c. three to one.
- d. two to one.

ANSWER:

d

36. Why were slaves brought on deck for an act the slave traders called “dancing the slaves”?

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- a. They were forced to exercise to maintain their health.
- b. Captives petitioned for some time to enjoy themselves.
- c. Slave traders were curious about African dance and music.
- d. They provided amusement for the slave traders on the long voyage.

*ANSWER:*

a

37. Male captives on board slave ships were often placed under tighter restrictions and in more confined conditions than female slaves in order to

- a. reduce the spread of disease.
- b. prevent sexual relations between slaves.
- c. prevent insurrections.
- d. allow more space for women.

*ANSWER:*

c

38. What difficulties did enslaved women face in addition to being separated from their homes and families and having to endure brutal conditions aboard the slave ship?

- a. Abuse from male slaves
- b. Rape and sexual violence from the crew
- c. Forced marriages to slave traders
- d. The murder of newborns

*ANSWER:*

b

39. What was the greatest cause of death among slaves during the Middle Passage?

- a. Disease
- b. Suicide
- c. Insurrections
- d. Abuse

*ANSWER:*

a

40. Also known as the “bloody flux,” why was dysentery the single biggest killer among captives on slave ships?

- a. Captains ordered slaves with dysentery thrown overboard before they could infect others.
- b. Cures were found for other diseases, such as smallpox, but not for dysentery.
- c. Crews did not know that the cramped conditions helped spread disease.
- d. Poor food and water caused this infection to spread rapidly in the packed hulls.

*ANSWER:*

d

41. Why did mortality rates among slaves vary so widely on slave ships during the Middle Passage?



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- a. Slaves received better care on some ships than others.
- b. The spread of disease was unpredictable.
- c. Great Britain passed laws improving the treatment of slaves, while other nations did not.
- d. The more attentive crews made sure to remove deceased slaves as soon as they died.

ANSWER:

b

42. How did female slaves aid insurrections on slave ships?

- a. Women sang songs that gave the men the will to rebel.
- b. They seduced male crew members while the men escaped.
- c. They passed messages and weapons to male slaves.
- d. Women trained children to sneak messages to the men in the hold.

ANSWER:

c

43. Why was the burial at sea of those captives who died on the Middle Passage additionally painful and traumatic for the slaves who survived these horrors?

- a. Many West Africans believed that hell was at the bottom of the ocean.
- b. They believed that the spirits of the dead could not find peace if they were not buried in Africa.
- c. The bodies were mutilated before being thrown overboard.
- d. The survivors were prevented from performing mortuary rites and coping with the loss of life.

ANSWER:

d

44. Between the sixteenth and the nineteenth century, when the slave trade was finally abolished, at least how many captives left Africa as slaves for the New World?

- a. 1 million
- b. 7 million
- c. 12 million
- d. 20 million

ANSWER:

c

45. What percentage of enslaved Africans possibly died of disease after arriving in the New World?

- a. 10 percent
- b. 20 percent
- c. 30 percent
- d. 40 percent

ANSWER:

c

46. "The stench of the hold while we were on the coast was so intolerably loathsome, that it was dangerous to remain there for any time, and some of us had been permitted to stay on the deck for the fresh air; but now that

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the whole ship's cargo were confined together, it became absolutely pestilential. 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. This produced copious perspirations, so that the air soon became unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells, and brought on a sickness amongst the slaves, of which many died, thus falling victims to the improvident avarice, as I may call it, of their purchasers. This wretched situation was again aggravated by the galling of the chains, now become insupportable; and the filth of the necessary tubs, into which the children often fell, and were almost suffocated."

What does Olaudah Equiano's account suggest about the treatment of African slaves by European slavers?

- a. European slavers were not aware of African slavery; therefore, they created their own structure.
- b. European slavers' customs paralleled African slavery.
- c. Europeans slavers were extremely brutal to African slaves and at times to their European crewmates.
- d. European slavers were mindful that African slaves were a commodity and therefore treated them with great care.

ANSWER:

c

47. "To prevent such misfortunes, we use to visit them daily, narrowly searching every corner between decks, to see whether they have not found means, to gather any pieces of iron, or wood, or knives, about the ship, notwithstanding the great care we take not to leave any tools or nails, or other things in the way: which, however, cannot be always so exactly observ'd, where so many people are in the narrow compass of a ship. We cause as many of our men as is convenient to lie in the quarter deck and gun room, and our principal officers in the great cabin, where we keep all our small arms in a readiness, with sentinels constantly at the door and avenues to it; being thus ready to disappoint any attempts our slaves might make on a sudden. These precautions contribute very much to keep them in awe; and if all those who carry slaves duly observ'd them, we should not hear of so many revolts as have happen'd. Where I was concern'd, we always kept our slaves in such order, that we did not perceive the least inclination in any of them to revolt, or mutiny, and lost very few of our number in the voyage."

According to James Barbot Jr., what was the chief way to ensure that a slave uprising would not occur on board a slave ship?

- a. Separating aggressive slaves from the mild-mannered slaves
- b. Having crew members sleep in the gunroom to prepare for insurrection
- c. Having crew members stay in the slave cabins to keep an eye on them
- d. Instilling fear in the slaves by inflecting punishment to disorderly slaves

**Chapter 2***ANSWER:*

b

48. “Various are the deceptions made use of in the disposal of sick slaves; and many of these, such as must excite in every humane mind, the liveliest sensations of horror. I have been well informed, that a Liverpool captain boasted of his having cheated some Jews by the following stratagem: A lot of slaves, afflicted with the flux, being about to be landed for sale, he directed the surgeon to stop the anus of each of them with oakum. Thus prepared, they were landed, and taken to the accustomed place of sale; where, being unable to stand but for a very short time, they are usually permitted to sit. The Jews, when they examine them, oblige them to stand up, in order to see if there be any discharge; and when they do not perceive this appearance, they consider it as a symptom of recovery. In the present instance, such an appearance being prevented, the bargain was struck, and they were accordingly sold. But it was not long before a discovery ensued. The excruciating pain which the prevention of a discharge of such an acrimonious nature occasioned, not being to be borne by the poor wretches, the temporary obstruction was removed, and the deluded purchasers were speedily convinced of the imposition.”

How does Alexander Falconbridge’s description of the transatlantic slave trade depict that institution?

- a. It reveals the inhumane, poor, unsanitary conditions of the transatlantic slave trade in great detail.
- b. It emphasizes how poorly he felt about the role he played in cheating the buyers out of their money.
- c. It hints that he desired to champion the cure for flux amongst the Africans.
- d. It reveals that he was pleased when the slave purchasers realized their slaves were indeed extremely ill.

*ANSWER:*

a

49. “The white people received, and stripped us of all our beads, and shells, and while the naked children were permitted to walk about the ship, the men and women were chained and kept in darkness below. Our food was sparing, and ever bad. Our punishment was frequent and severe, and death became so frequent an occurrence, that at last it [illegible word] on, without fear on the dying, or grief on those left behind, as we believed that those who died, were restored to their people and Country. A long voyage at length brought the ship to Jamaica. My Eboe name was Akeiso, the loss of which soon put an end to all recollections of my people – another name – a strange language, & a new master, confused my mind, and while ignorance of each, made my labour more troublesome, yet the dread of punishment compelled me to work.”

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How does Florence Hall's account of her capture and enslavement describe the social trauma that the transatlantic slave trade inflicted on enslaved Africans?

- a. Her account describes the physical torment of being kept in darkness in chains.
- b. She explains the significant difference between society in Jamaica and African society.
- c. She details how her recollections of her African people were slowly lost.
- d. Her account recalls the loss of her wealth and fortune upon enslavement.

ANSWER:

c

### Essay

50. How did technology shape the transatlantic slave trade?

ANSWER: *Answer would ideally include the following. Caravel technology-* Carracks and caravels were the first oceangoing vessels suitable for long exploratory voyages developed in Europe. These ships enabled Europeans to travel faster and farther than any other vessels of their day. Most important, they allowed Portuguese mariners to cut through the dangerous northeasterly winds blowing off Cape Bojador and explore the oceans along the west coast of Africa. *Canoe agility-* Although they lacked the firepower contained in caravels, West African canoes were far more agile than the larger European vessels. This meant that canoe men were able to successfully pick off Europeans who attempted to land onshore. The difficulty that the Europeans encountered led them to move away from using kidnapping to secure enslaved laborers and opt instead to negotiate commercial treaties with West African rulers who agreed to supply the Portuguese with slaves in return for European goods.

51. How did members of the Catholic Church impact the nature of enslaved labor in the New World?

ANSWER: *Answer would ideally include the following. Challenging the legitimacy of Native American slavery-* Dominican missionaries were troubled by the Spanish treatment of Native American populations and were quick to challenge the legitimacy of Native American slavery. Antonio de Montesinos, for example, a Dominican priest stationed on Hispaniola, delivered a sermon in 1511 that criticized the "cruel and horrible servitude" in which the Spanish held Native Americans. Bartolomé de Las Casas and other Dominican priests pressured both the Spanish crown and the pope to protect the Indians and encouraged the Spanish to replace them with slaves imported from Africa. In response, Pope Paul III issued a papal bull in 1537 declaring that the Indians were rational beings who should be converted rather than enslaved. In 1542, the Spanish government banned the enslavement of Indians within its territories. *Encouraging African slavery-* Dominican priests encouraged the Spanish crown to replace enslaved Indians with slaves imported from Africa. Pope Nicholas V had sanctioned the practice of African enslavement in a papal bull in 1452, titled *Dum Diversas*. The proclamation granted the kings of Spain and Portugal to enslave the peoples of North Africa and the Middle East.

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52. What role did slave labor play in Spain's conquest of the Americas? Discuss how Indians and Africans were enslaved in the New World and why colonists abandoned indigenous slavery for African slavery.

**ANSWER:** *Answer would ideally include the following.* **Indian slave labor in the New World-** When the voyages led by Christopher Columbus arrived on the island of Hispaniola in 1492, the colonists from Spain immediately began extracting forced labor from the indigenous people in the Caribbean. During the first decades of the fifteenth century, the encomienda system permitted Spaniards to collect tribute from native peoples under their control, and those who resisted were slaughtered. Slave labor, warfare, and disease decimated the people of the Americas, such as the Taino Indians, whose population dropped from 500,000 in 1514 to a few hundred by 1542. **African slave labor in the New World-** By 1620, almost 300,000 Africans had landed in the Americas. Known as bozales in New Spain, most African-born slaves were forced to do the hardest, dirtiest, and most dangerous work, such as working on sugarcane plantations, mining for gold and silver, and diving for pearls. Demand for slave labor increased over time and gave rise to an international slave trading system that brought at least 12.5 million Africans as slaves to the New World. **Change from Indian to African slave labor-** Slave traders began shifting from Indian slave labor to African slave labor in the late fifteenth century. The indigenous population was decimated, and European colonists were looking for other ways to fill their desire for cheap labor in their growing colonies in America. It was also difficult for Africans to escape because they were unfamiliar with the New World and had almost no way of returning home. Africans had also built up natural immunities to Old World diseases, while Indians had no such immunities, which caused the Indian population to rapidly decline. The slave trade left some regions of Africa depopulated while it provided Europeans with raw materials, labor, and capital to fuel the economic development of Europe into the industrial age.

53. What did captives experience while waiting for a slave ship to arrive on the West African coast?

**ANSWER:** *Answer would ideally include the following.* **Captives' physical experiences on the Slave Coast-** There was little hope of escape once a captive was taken to Africa's west coast to be sold into the transatlantic slave trade. Captives were taken to underground dungeons in castles, such as the Cape Coast Castle. Merchants lived in the upper portions of the castle in elegantly designed fortifications, while slaves were housed in cramped, wet, and filthy conditions below. The "slave hole" was designed to prevent the slaves from escaping but also from mounting an insurrection against the castle's inhabitants. Elmina, one of these castles, was the home of the famous "door of no return," which was an exit from the dungeon that opened to the sea. Captives were also housed in barracoons, which were holding pens exposed to the elements. Slaves received little food or water, and as many as 5 percent perished in the deplorable conditions. **Captives' mental experiences on the Slave Coast-** Slaves experienced psychological trauma in addition to physical abuse. Some slaves believed that they were going to be slaughtered on board the slave ship due to the inhumane treatment they had already received. Others believed that the crew of the slave ship were cannibals, which was an expression of traditional African beliefs about dangerous foreigners who ate human flesh. Many Africans linked the trade with the practice of sorcery and witchcraft because of the suffering associated with the slave trade. Captives were routinely separated from their families before embarking on the Middle Passage, which was also spiritually and psychologically damaging.

54. What were the physical, cultural, and psychological traumas that West Africans were forced to endure

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during the Middle Passage?

**ANSWER:** *Answer would ideally include the following. Physical traumas of the Middle Passage-* The physical trauma of enslavement began after the Africans were captured and sold into the internal slave trade in Africa. The march to the coast in coffles, or chained groups, caused as many as one in ten to perish before they ever saw a slave ship. Men were placed in the deepest parts of the ships in order to prevent rebellion. They were often chained to one another and rarely were allowed to leave the filthy and dangerous confines on a journey that could take months. Women were victims of sexual abuse in addition to the horrors of being separated from their homes and families to do backbreaking labor on sugarcane plantations and in silver and gold mines and other forms of dangerous and demeaning labor. *Cultural impact-* Africans sold into the transatlantic slave trade were not only physically separated from their homes and families but also disconnected from familiar culture and social norms. Family and kinship affiliations were the most important aspects of life and culture in Africa, and, once separated from their homes, Africans were forced to form new families and new kinship ties. *Psychological toll-* Even before entering a slave ship, the horrors of the slave trade were penetrating the minds of those about to witness them firsthand. Some captives believed that the slave traders were cannibals due to African lore that warned of dangerous foreigners who were cannibals. Families were often torn apart in slave ports, which became known as the “door of no return,” which created endless sadness and torment before entering the gruesome confines of the slave ship. While on board, women were subject to rape by the ship’s crew. Men, who were shackled to boards belowdecks, had to listen to this sexual violence while being powerless to stop it. Disease ravaged these ships, and often dead men would be left belowdecks, still chained to their living companions, for hours and even days. Slaves also experienced the spiritual agony of seeing others buried at sea without being able to perform mortuary rites and properly grieve their deaths.

55. How were European explorers able to embark on the Age of Discovery that resulted in the beginning of the transatlantic slave trade?

**ANSWER:** *Answer would ideally include the following. Beginning of the slave trade-* Nation-states, such as Portugal and Spain, began to explore and trade along the coast of Africa on their way to rich markets in Asia in the fifteenth century. European monarchs, such as Prince Henry of Portugal, funded expeditions using new ship designs, such as the carrack and the caravel, that borrowed the triangular sail from the Arab dhow. Merchants tapped into the internal slave trade, which was established prior to Europeans’ arrival in Africa, and brought captives to coastal kingdoms where they were sold to European slave traders. Slaves were first shipped by Portuguese and Spanish traders to islands off the coasts of Europe and Africa, but most were brought to sugar plantations in New Spain, the Caribbean, and Brazil.

56. What was the impact of disease on the indigenous populations of the Americas after Spanish colonization began in 1492?

**ANSWER:** *Answer would ideally include the following. Impact of disease-* Christopher Columbus and his men began to establish a colony on Hispaniola, the island now divided between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, in 1492. The resulting pandemic in the indigenous population, who had no immunity to Old World diseases such as smallpox, typhus, and influenza, was catastrophic. The Taino, who were the first native people enslaved by the Spanish in the New World, were the first

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to feel the impact of slavery, warfare, and disease wrought by the colonists. In the early sixteenth century, their population dropped from 500,000 to 60,000, and by 1542, only a few hundred were alive. As a result of the rapidly declining Indian population, European colonists shifted from indigenous slave labor to the transatlantic slave trade.

57. What role did the *asiento* system play in the development of the transatlantic slave trade?

*ANSWER:* Answer would ideally include the following. *The asiento's role in the slave trade-* Portugal controlled the early transatlantic slave trade because the Treaty of Tordesillas granted Spain the right to colonize the western hemisphere and Portugal the right to control Africa and Asia. Spain's *asiento* system regulated the trade between Portugal and Spanish colonies in the New World in the early 1500s, but after 1595, Spain granted a new *asiento* (agreement) that gave Portugal control of the transatlantic slave trade. The new *asiento* allowed the Portuguese to ship enslaved Africans directly from Africa to New Spain.

58. What role did officials within the Catholic Church play in shaping the system of enslaved labor that developed in the New World?

*ANSWER:* Answer would ideally include the following. *Challenging the legitimacy of Indian slavery-* Dominican missionaries challenged the legitimacy of Native American slavery due to the Spanish mistreatment of these peoples. Priests criticized the conditions that these slaves were made to work in. Dominican priests ultimately pressured the Spanish crown to protect the Indians and encouraged the Spanish to replace Indian slaves with those imported from Africa. *Sanctioning the use of African slaves-* African slavery was encouraged by Dominican priests to replace the enslavement of Native Americans. In 1452, Pope Nicholas V issued a proclamation, titled *Dum Diversas*, which sanctioned the European enslavement of peoples in North Africa and the Middle East.

59. What impacts did the advent of the transatlantic slave trade have on societies within Africa?

*ANSWER:* Answer would ideally include the following. *Impact on African societies-* The slave trade fostered warfare and weakened social bonds within Africa by encouraging African villages and states to raid each other for slaves. Rulers found it difficult to resist participating in the slave trade because the European slave traders supplied their enemies with guns. The slave trade also resulted in the loss of generations of young people, bringing about substantial demographic costs.

60. How were captives brought to the West African coast and sold into the transatlantic slave trade?

*ANSWER:* Answer would ideally include the following. *Capture, transport, and sale-* For African captives sold into the transatlantic slave trade, their journey to a slave ship began long before they reached the West African coast. Most captives were from inland regions and were typically war captives who were forcibly marched in chained groups called coffles before embarking on the Middle Passage. Captives were held in "slave holes" in European fortifications, such as Elmina Castle and Cape Coast Castle, or in outdoor pens called barracoons before embarking on the Middle Passage to America. The grueling march and unhealthy conditions killed as many as 5 percent of the captives before being sold on the West African coast. Slave ships waited just off the coast while captives were "tight packed" in the hulls to maximize profits for the ships' owners.

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61. What efforts did captives make to resist their enslavement during the Middle Passage? How did slave traders try to prevent rebellion on board slave ships?

*ANSWER: Answer would ideally include the following. Revolts during the Middle Passage-* Conditions inside the slave ships for the captives were atrocious. Some died trying to free themselves, and a few succeeded in overtaking their captors. Women often participated in revolts aboard ships, such as the British ship *Thomas* in 1797, by smuggling weapons and information to the men as well as taking part in hand-to-hand combat. *Efforts to prevent revolts-* In order to prevent rebellion, slave traders kept men shackled in iron cuffs known as bilboes in the lowest bowels of the ship, and women were often kept near the crew and frequently sexually assaulted. The size of the crews on slave ships was often twice as large as other ships to help subdue the enslaved men on board.

62. How was the experience on the Middle Passage different for men and women?

*ANSWER: Answer would ideally include the following. Men's experience on the Middle Passage:* The transatlantic slave trade took a physical and psychological toll on everyone sold into it, but the experience of men and women was often different. Throughout the slave trade, men outnumbered women two to one, and for slave traders, the fear of revolt was always on their minds. They shackled men in the lowest levels of the ships naked and stacked on bunks to prevent them from moving. The ship's crew rarely ventured into this area, so the conditions were deplorable, with captives sometimes being left bound to dead bodies. *Women's experience on the Middle Passage-* Women and children were usually housed away from the men and closer to the ship's crew and were often the victim of rape and other forms of sexual violence. They also had more freedom of movement than men did. Women had better access to information on the ship's crew, fortifications, and the daily routine, which they used to plan mutinies on the rare occasion they could collaborate with their male counterparts. One such revolt, on the British ship *Thomas* in 1797, women helped plan the insurrection by stealing weapons and passing them to the men on the lower levels while engaging in hand-to-hand combat.

63. Why were mortality rates so high during the Middle Passage?

*ANSWER: Answer would ideally include the following. Causes of death-* Over the course of the transatlantic slave trade from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century, mortality rates were as high as 50 percent among those captured in Africa, sold along the coast of West Africa, shipped like cargo on the Middle Passage, and sold as property in America. The leading causes of death were diseases such as scurvy and dysentery, where mortality rates ranged from 10 to 20 percent on some ships to 89 percent on the Dutch ship *Nooitgedacht* in 1773. The cramped conditions meant that starvation and thirst were constant threats. Some slaves chose to take their own lives due to the deplorable conditions. Many of these captives chose not to eat and resisted attempts to force-feed them.

64. How did the experience of the Middle Passage provoke a "social crisis" among enslaved Africans?

*ANSWER: Answer would ideally include the following. Social crisis-* The historian Stephanie Smallwood has argued that, because the deaths that occurred during the Middle Passage took place outside any social context that might allow the living to make peace with them, the high mortality rate produced an extraordinary social crisis. These deaths, she argues, were considered spiritually



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incomplete by the enslaved. This crisis was part of a larger distancing that took place between the enslaved and their native societies during the Middle Passage.