

OUR History in the United States

Unit 2 - The Maafa



"Africa remains marked by the crimes of the slave-trader: up to now, her potentialities are restricted by under-population." ~ **Sekou Toure**

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Slavery has existed since the beginning of civilization, but it has not always had the same meaning. Understanding these differences is essential to understanding the role of Africa in the slave trade.

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The Columbian Exchange created the need for the Transatlantic Slave Trade. We will look into these events and their connection.

The Impact of the Maafa 26

The Transatlantic Slave Trade, also known as the Maafa, impacted all three regions involved in the Triangular Trade - both positive and negative.

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Maafa

Slavery: Definition, Origin and Justification

Vocabulary

1) Maafa	6) colonialism	11) migration
2) capitalism	7) exploitation	12) papal bull
3) repercussions	8) imperialism	13) perpetual
4) chattel	9) callous	14) Renaissance
5) catalyst	10) Commercial Revolution	

What exactly is the **Maafa**? Maafa is a kiswahili word meaning great disaster or catastrophe. This term is used to refer to the Transatlantic Slave Trade (or European Slave Trade), **imperialism**, and **colonialism**. The European trade in slaves began in the mid-fifteenth century with Portuguese explorations along the west coast of Africa. Because of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, African peoples were forcibly removed from the African continent and taken to the Caribbean islands and North and South American continents. The Transatlantic Slave Trade was the largest forced **migration** in human history. This unit will focus primarily on the Africans that were brought to what is now the United States.

What is Slavery?

Before we examine the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its **repercussions**, we must first understand what slavery is. We must also understand that although there is a basic definition, the way in which it was implemented varied from place to place. Slavery is a form of **exploitation**. The most common, and basic, definition of slavery is a condition in which one person is owned by another person. This definition ignores the social status aspect of slavery. According to Roy Eyerman, in the Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology:

"Slavery is a condition of subordination and domination involving forced labor and servitude; it is a condition made possible through

WRITING PARAGRAPHS

USING THE P.I.E. METHOD

A paragraph is a group of related sentences detailing one clear point. A good paragraph is thoughtful, unified, coherent, and well-developed. A basic way to structure a paragraph is to use the P.I.E. method: Point, Information, and Explanation.



P

POINT - TELL ME!

- This is the MAIN POINT or TOPIC SENTENCE.
- What is the point of the paragraph?
- What claim is being made?
- This is the focus of the paragraph.

I

INFORMATION - SHOW ME!

- Information is the evidence used to support the topic sentence.
- How is the point supported with specific data, experiences, or other facts?
- **Ideas for Information** - Information from readings, research or discussions (quotes or paraphrased), personal experiences, stories, anecdotes, statistics, definitions, and elements from pop culture.

E

EXPLANATION - SO WHAT?

- Why is this information important or meaningful?
- What does the provided information mean?
- Many times, the explanation rephrases or refers to the point and the information.
- **Ideas for Explanation** - Interpret, explain, or analyze the information. Suggest to the reader how the information relates to your topic and/or thesis. Comment on the accuracy or inaccuracy of the information.

SUPPLEMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS

This list provides additional assignments for each section of this unit. This can be used to provide an alternative assignment to any of the assignments in the unit, or to supplement the unit with additional assignments for a high school student or advanced student. Multiple supplemental assignments are provided to allow for choices, but it's not expected that all supplemental assignments be completed along with the assignments in the lesson.



SLAVERY: DEFINITION, ORIGIN, AND JUSTIFICATION

- Compare/contrast the Trans-Saharan slave trade (Arab slave trade) and the Transatlantic slave trade (European slave trade). You can use the included Venn diagram to brainstorm points before writing your essay.

COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE AND THE TRIANGULAR TRADE

- Design a memorial for the Africans forced to endure the Middle Passage (draw it or build it). Write a 150-200 word inscription for the memorial.

Your inscription should describe the event that is being memorialized, the people that it commemorates (you can use actual numbers here as well), and why this even should be remembered.

Research other memorials to see how to write a proper inscription for a memorial. Some memorials you can research are the MLK memorial, The Door of No Return, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Memorial to the Slave Market in Zanzibar.

- Perform a historical art analysis of the pictures on the following page. Answer the following questions to guide you in your written analysis. Write a written analysis of the two pieces of art.
 - 1) What is happening in each piece of artwork?
 - 2) What is being depicted?
 - 3) What does the artwork suggest or represent?
 - 4) What story do the pieces of artwork tell when considered together?