

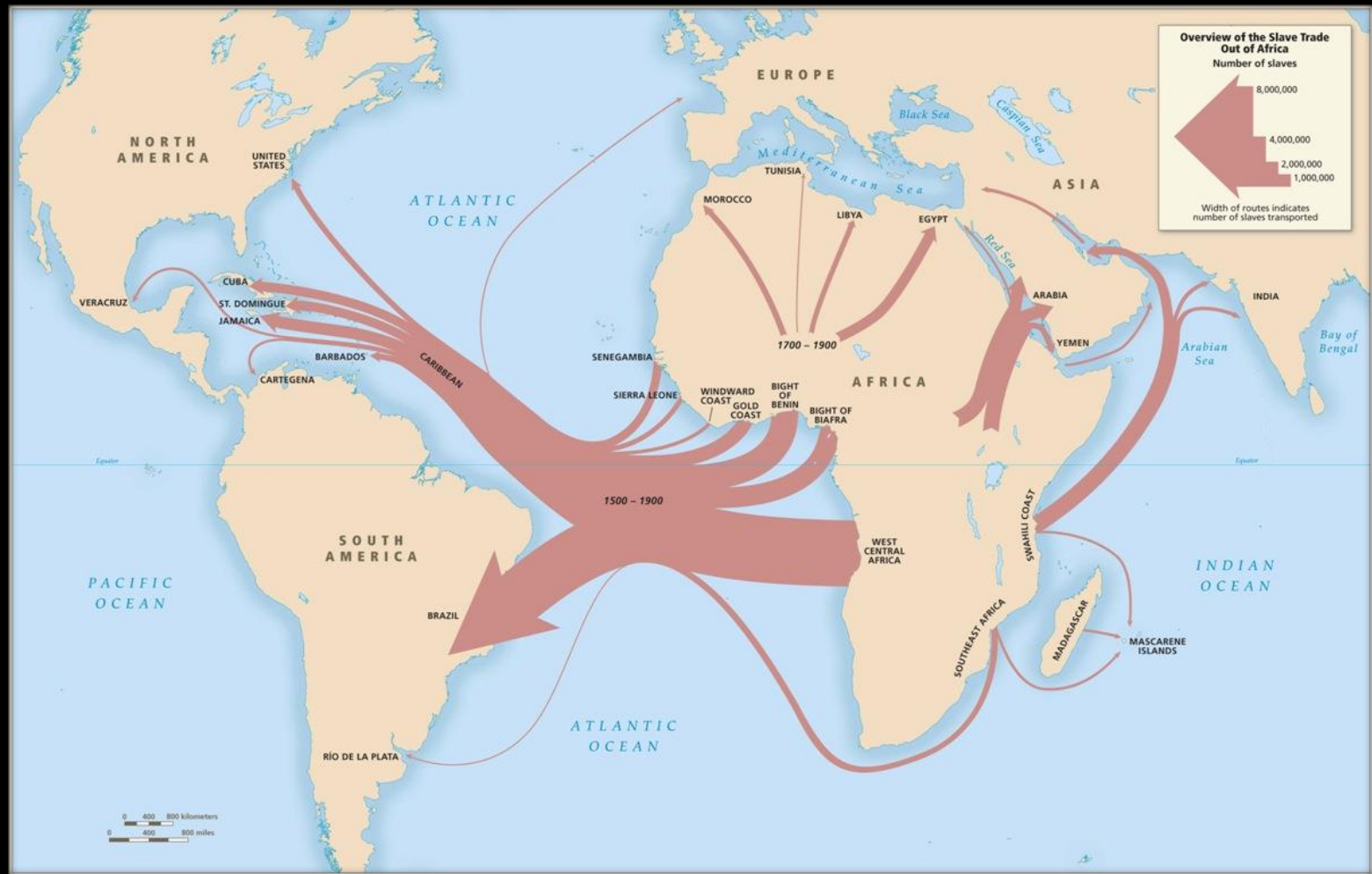
Spirits of the Passage Exhibit

The Story of the Transatlantic Slave Trade



An Overview

The Transatlantic Slave Trade

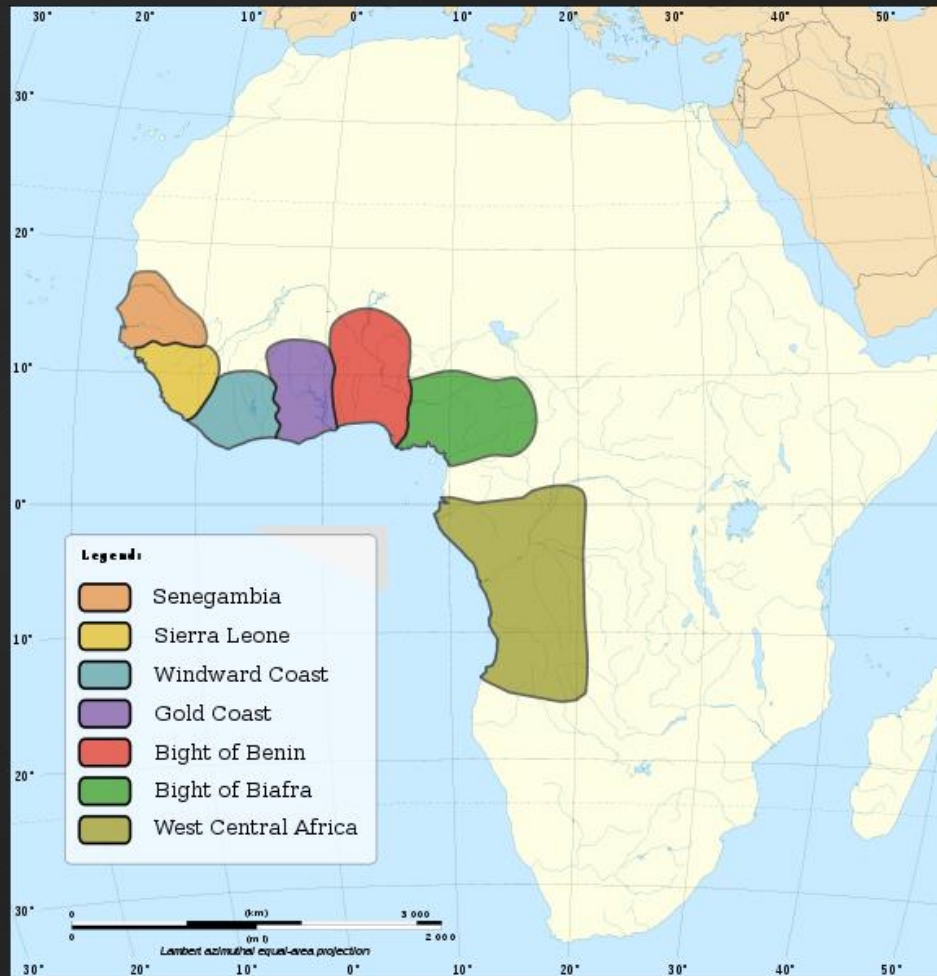


Over 12 million Africans were transported across the Atlantic Ocean from the mid-1400s to the mid-1800s.

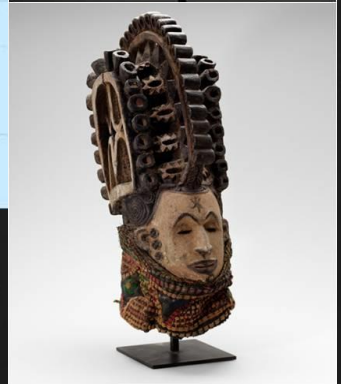
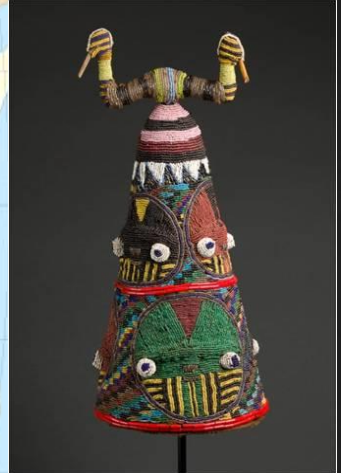
African Cultures

Africa, the world's second largest continent, is a land of many different nations. Within these nations are thousands of unique and distinct cultures, many with their own languages, religions, art, music, ruling structures, and histories.

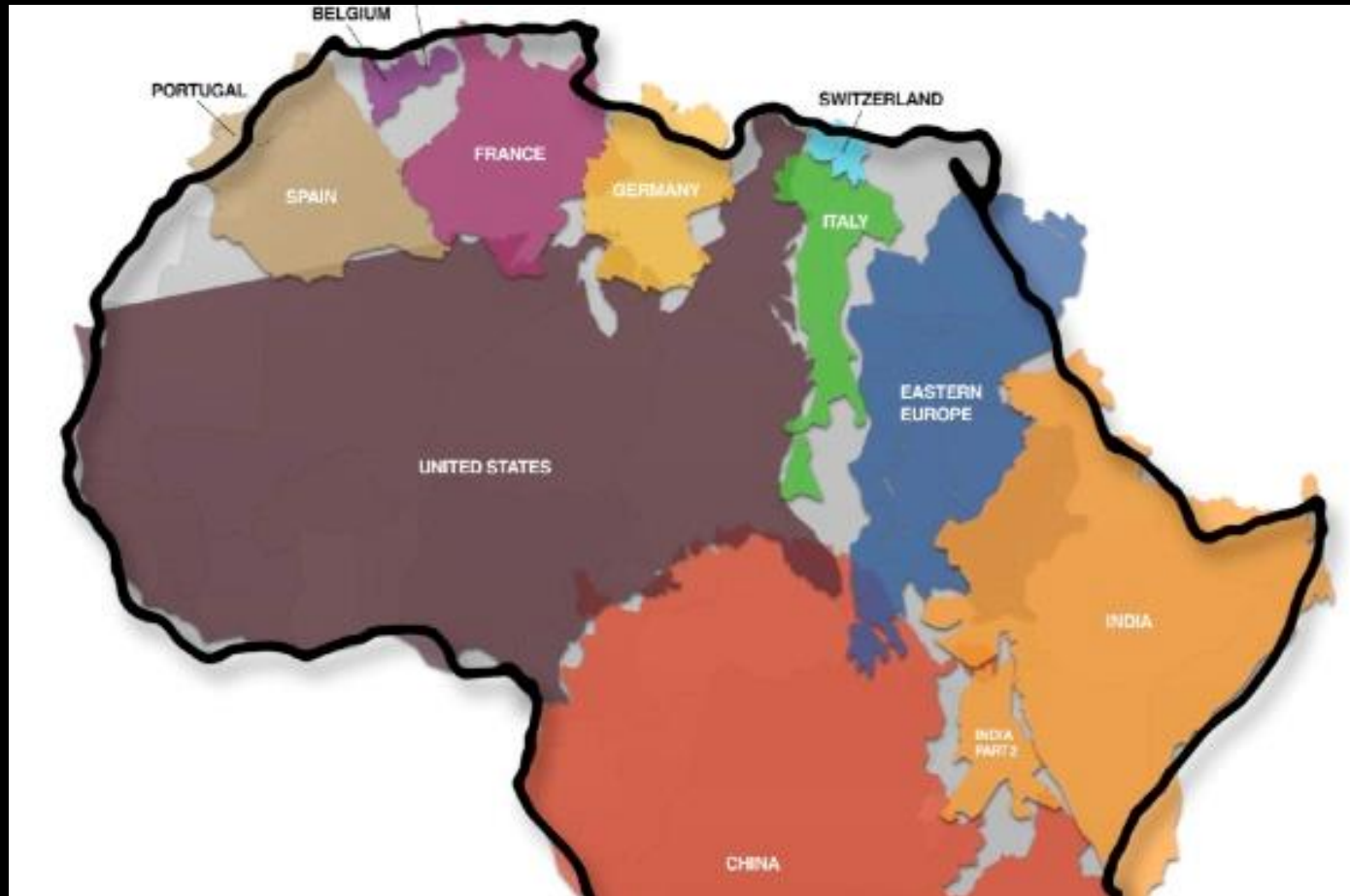
Slavery was historically a part of many of these cultures. People could be enslaved because of war, as a punishment, or to pay off debt. They were not, however, considered as chattel.



This map shows the regions from which most of the Africans were taken.



How Big is Africa?



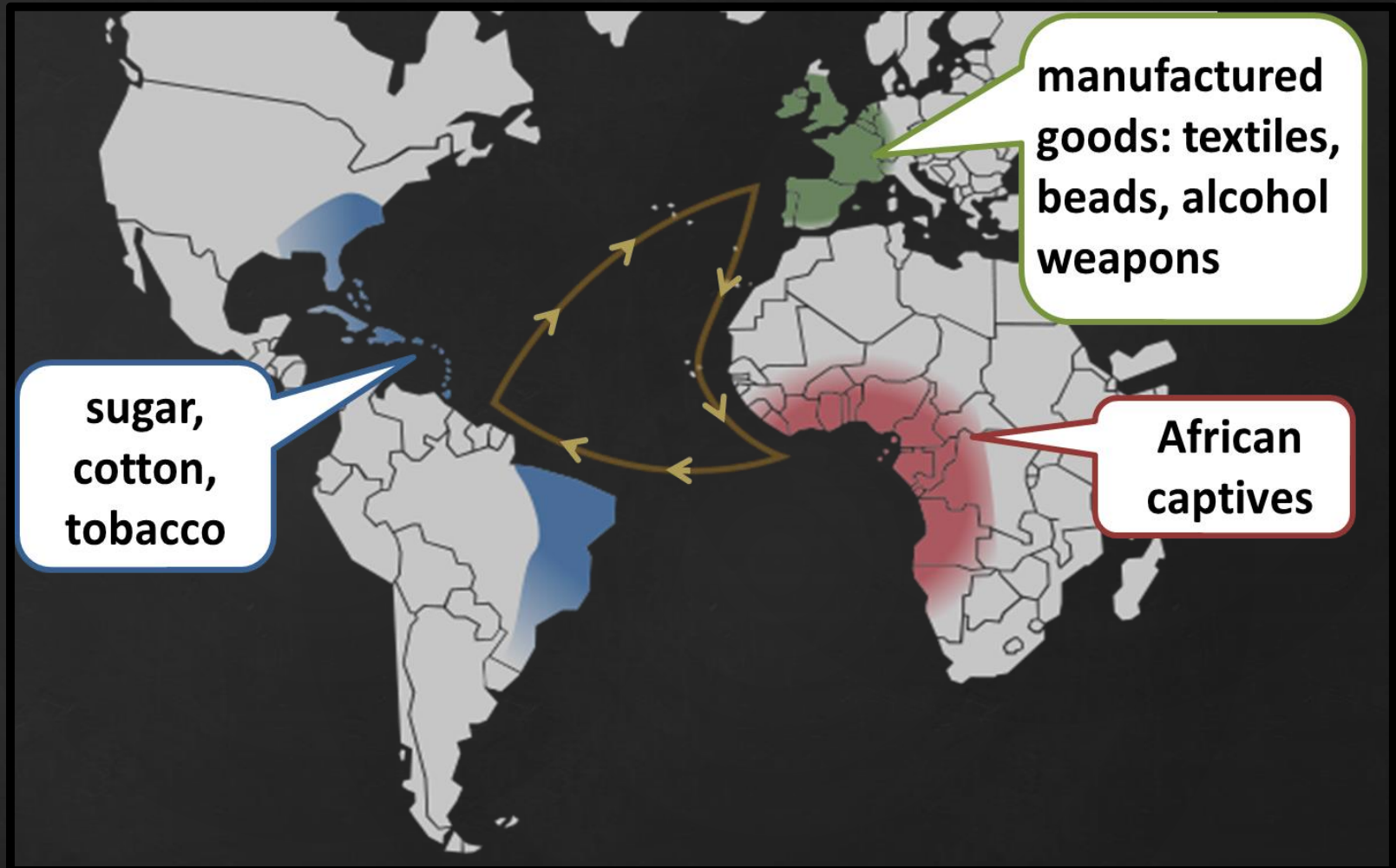
It could hold some of the largest countries in the world!

A Legal Slave Trade



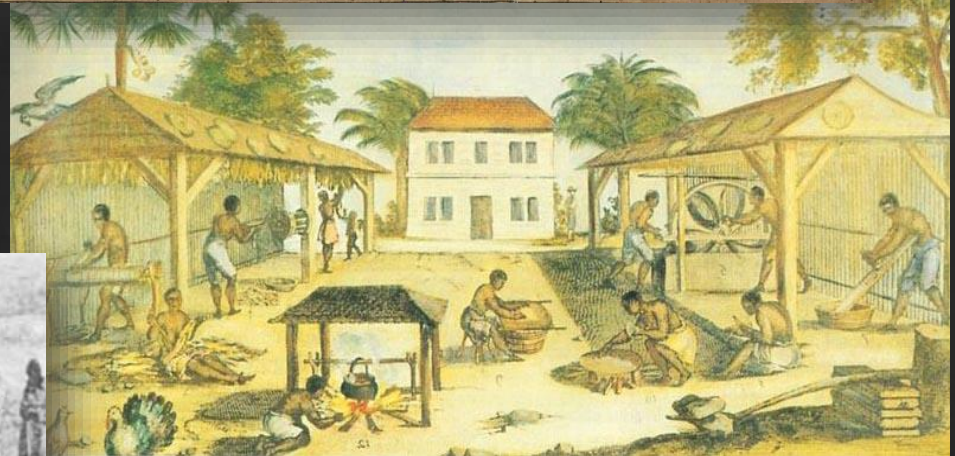
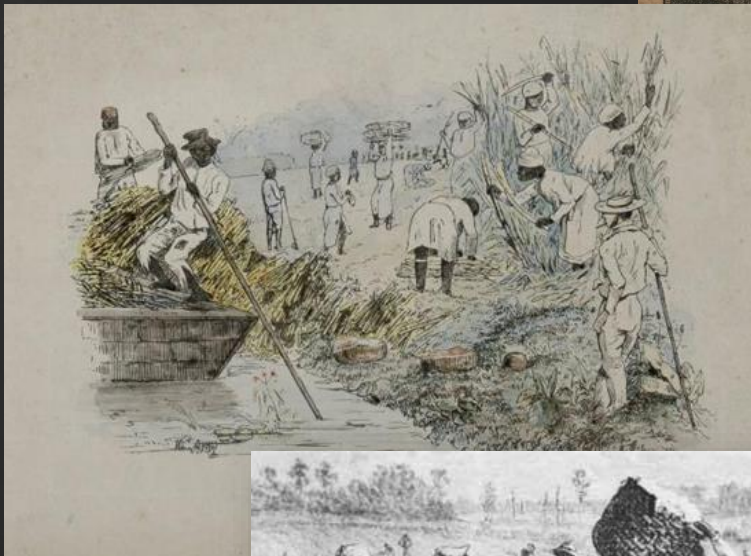
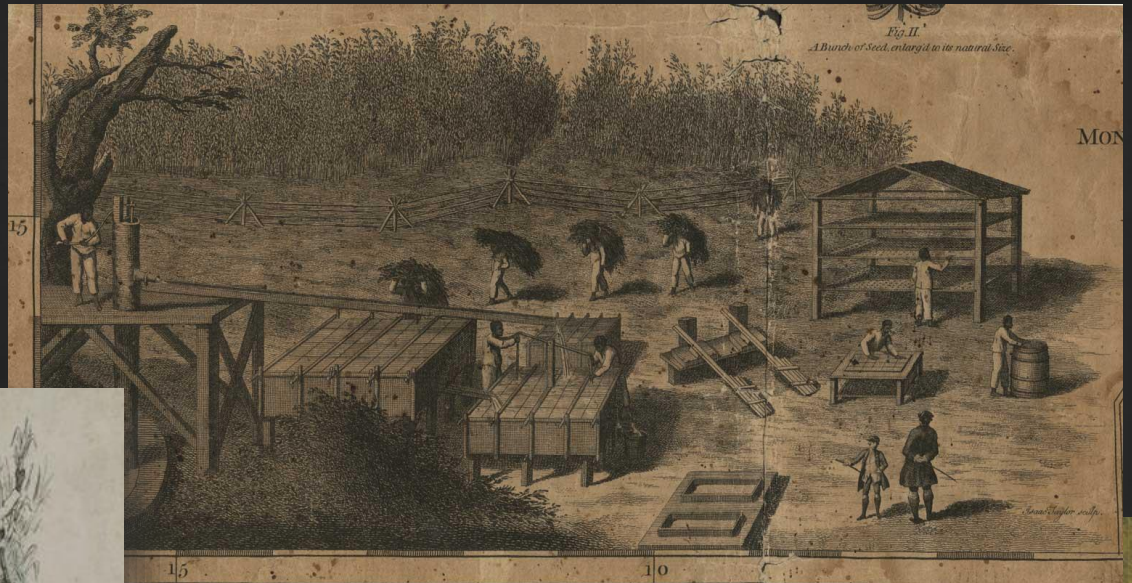
Slavery had existed in the world for thousands of years. The Transatlantic Slave Trade, however, expanded the practice and created one of the largest and most financially lucrative industries in the world.

The Triangular Trade Route



Europeans traded manufactured goods to African Chieftains for people who were sold in the Americas for slave labor in order that luxury products like sugar, tobacco, and cotton could be grown and shipped to Europe.

Plantation Crops



Some of the major crops grown with slave labor were indigo, cotton, tobacco, and sugar.

What Was the Value of a Human Life?

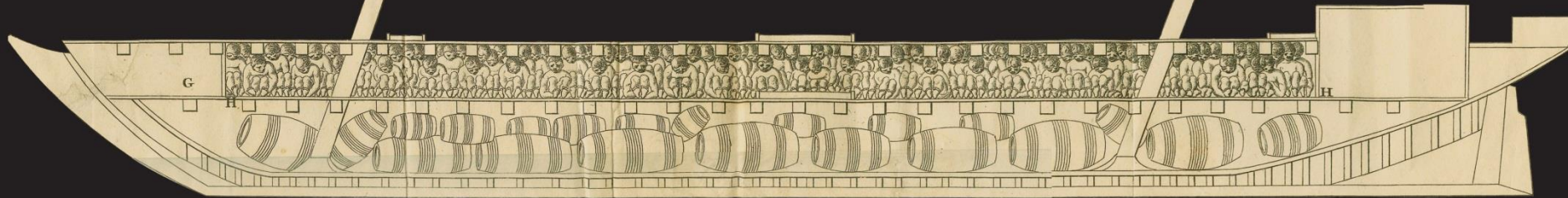
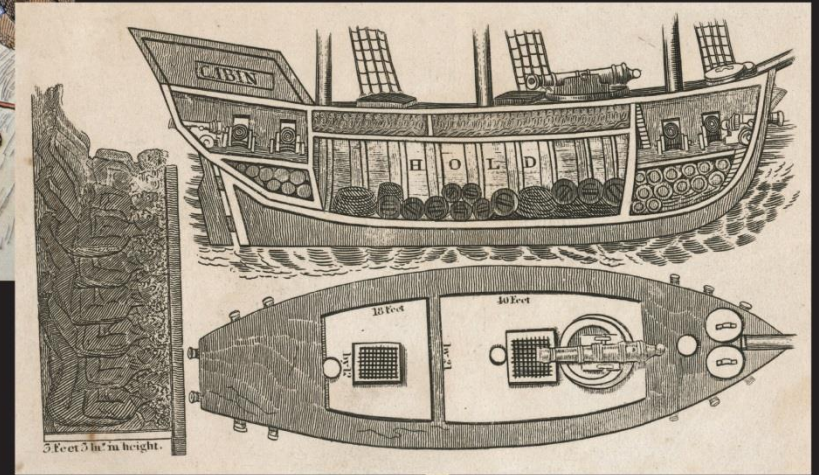
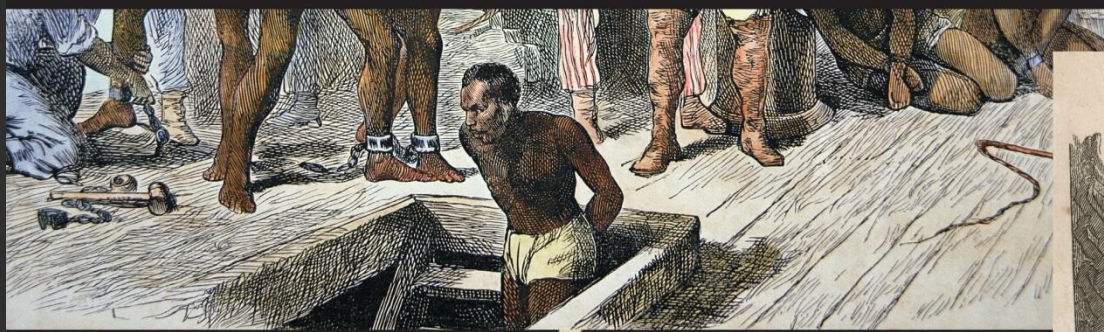


35 pounds of beads
could buy a person



15 pewter tankards or
plates could buy a person

Life Aboard a Slave Ship



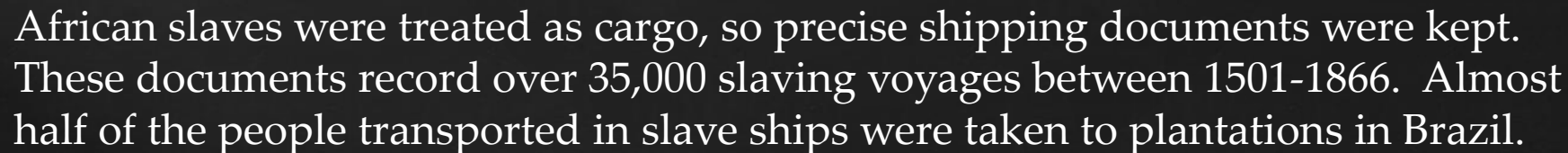
Most slave ships were really just merchant ships that were refitted to carry human cargo. The 6-10 week trip was arduous. Of the 12 million Africans who left Africa, only 10 million arrived in the Americas. The rest died on the voyage.

Human Cargo



The Africans were confined below deck for the long voyage. Those believed to be dangerous would be shackled. They might be shackled to prevent a rebellion or to prevent a suicide.

A detailed cross-sectional diagram of a slave ship's hull. The lower deck is packed with numerous enslaved people, shown in various states of distress and exhaustion. The hold below is filled with large wooden barrels, likely containing goods or provisions. The diagram is signed 'M.B.' on the left and 'J.D.' on the right.



Slave Ship Voyages: Year and Destination

	Spain / Uruguay	Portugal / Brazil	Great Britain	Netherlands	U.S.A.	France	Denmark / Baltic	Totals
1501-1525	6,363	7,000	0	0	0	0	0	13,363
1526-1550	25,375	25,387	0	0	0	0	0	50,763
1551-1575	28,167	31,089	1,685	0	0	66	0	61,007
1576-1600	60,056	90,715	237	1,365	0	0	0	152,373
1601-1625	83,496	267,519	0	1,829	0	0	0	352,843
1626-1650	44,313	201,609	33,695	31,729	824	1,827	1,053	315,050
1651-1675	12,601	244,793	122,367	100,526	0	7,125	653	488,064
1676-1700	5,860	297,272	272,200	85,847	3,327	29,484	25,685	719,674
1701-1725	0	474,447	410,597	73,816	3,277	120,939	5,833	1,088,909
1726-1750	0	536,696	554,042	83,095	34,004	259,095	4,793	1,471,725
1751-1775	4,239	528,693	832,047	132,330	84,580	325,918	17,508	1,925,314
1776-1800	6,415	673,167	748,612	40,773	67,443	433,061	39,199	2,008,670
1801-1825	168,087	1,160,601	283,959	2,669	109,545	135,815	16,316	1,876,992
1826-1850	400,728	1,299,969	0	357	1,850	68,074	0	1,770,979
1851-1866	215,824	9,309	0	0	476	0	0	225,609
Totals	1,061,524	5,848,265	3,259,440	554,336	305,326	1,381,404	111,041	12,521,336

Over 12 million Africans were documented as human cargo aboard slave ships between 1501-1866.

www.slavevoyages.org

In the early 1600s, some records indicate that Africans and indentured servants were treated similarly. Within a few decades, though, those similarities no longer existed. History tells us that the lives of enslaved Africans in the 1650 bore little resemblance to those that came later, as slavery laws became harsher.



*Just ARRIVED, at LEEDS Town,
the Ship JUSTITIA, with about one
Hundred healthy*

S E R V A N T S,

Men, Women, and Boys, among which are many Tradesmen, viz. Blacksmiths, Shoemakers, Tailors, House Carpenters and Joiners,, a Cooper, a Bricklayer and Plasterer, a Painter, a Watchmaker and Glazier, several Silversmiths, Weavers, a Jeweller, and many others.

The Sale will commence on *Tuesday* the 2d of *April*, at *Leeds Town*, on *Rappahannock River*. A reasonable Credit will be allowed, giving Bond, with approved Security, to

THOMAS HODGE.

I have an assorted Cargo of GOODS from *London*, suitable for the Season (about two Thousand Pounds Sterling worth) which I will lump off, on reasonable Terms, at a Credit with good Security.

Colonial America
Servant or Slave?

Land of the Free?

1790 Census

State	Slaves	Population	% Slave	Free Non-White	% FNW
North					
New York	21,193	340,241	6.2	4,682	1.4
New Jersey	11,423	184,139	6.2	2,762	1.5
Pennsylvania	3,707	443,611	0.8	6,531	1.5
Connecticut	2,648	237,655	1.1	2,771	1.2
Rhode Island	958	69,112	1.4	3,484	5.0
New Hampshire	157	141,899	0.1	630	0.4
Massachusetts	0	378,566	0.0	5,369	1.4
Vermont	0	85,341	0.0	269	0.3
Total	40,086	1,880,564	2.1	26,498	1.4

South

Virginia	292,627	747,550	39.1	12,866	1.7
South Carolina	107,094	249,073	43.0	1,801	0.7
Maryland	103,036	319,728	32.2	8,043	2.5
North Carolina	100,783	395,005	25.5	5,041	1.3
Georgia	29,264	82,548	35.5	398	0.5
Kentucky	12,430	73,677	16.9	114	0.2
Delaware	8,887	59,096	15.0	3,899	6.6
Total	654,121	1,926,677	34.0	32,162	1.7



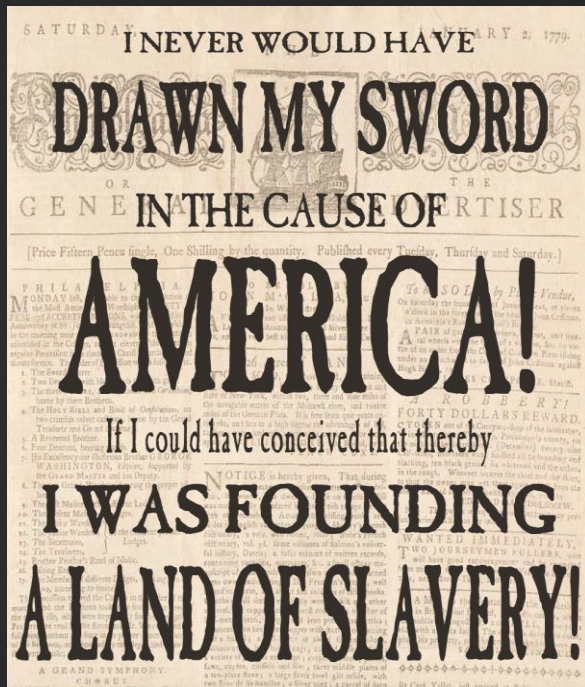
What can a census reveal?

1820 Census

State	Slaves	Population	% Slave	Free Non-White	% FNW
North					
New York	10,088	1,372,812	0.7	29,278	2.1
New Jersey	7,557	277,575	2.7	12,460	4.5
Pennsylvania	211	1,549,458	0.0	30,202	1.9
Connecticut	97	275,248	0.0	7,870	2.9
Rhode Island	48	83,059	0.1	3,554	4.3
New Hampshire	0	244,161	0.0	786	0.3
Massachusetts	0	523,287	0.0	6,740	1.3
Vermont	0	235,764	0.0	903	0.4
Ohio	0	581,434	0.0	4,723	0.8
Maine	0	298,335	0.0	929	0.3
Illinois	917	55,211	1.7	457	0.8
Indiana	190	147,178	0.1	1,230	0.8
Total	19,108	5,643,522	0.3	99,132	1.8

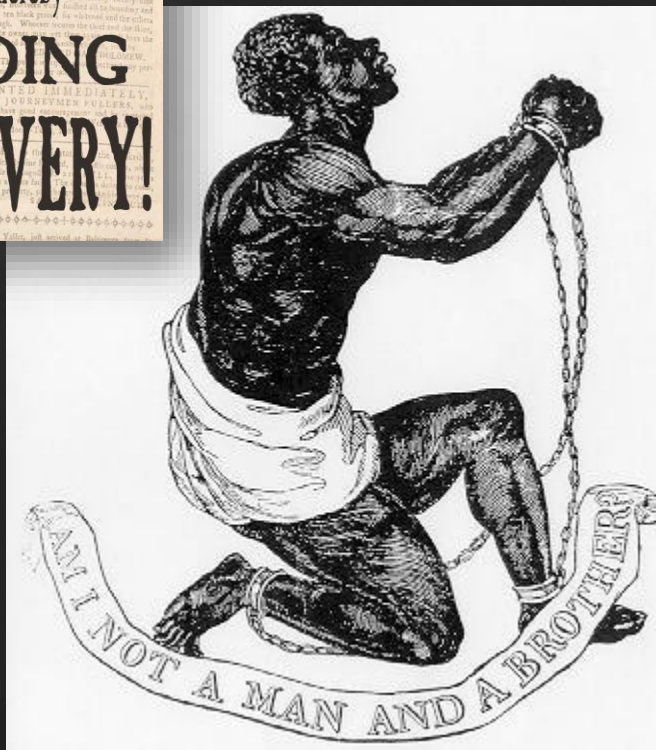
South

Virginia	425,153	1,065,379	39.9	39,889	3.7
South Carolina	251,783	490,309	51.4	6,714	1.4
Maryland	107,398	407,350	26.4	39,730	9.8
North Carolina	205,017	638,829	32.1	14,612	2.3
Georgia	149,656	340,989	43.9	1,763	0.5
Kentucky	126,732	564,317	22.5	2,759	0.5
Delaware	4,509	72,749	6.2	12,958	17.8
Tennessee	80,107	422,813	18.9	2,727	0.6
Louisiana	69,064	153,407	45.0	10,897	7.1
Alabama	47,449	144,317	32.9	633	0.4
Mississippi	32,814	75,448	43.5	458	0.6
Missouri (ter)	10,222	66,586	15.4	347	0.5
Total	1,509,904	4,442,493	34.0	133,487	3.0



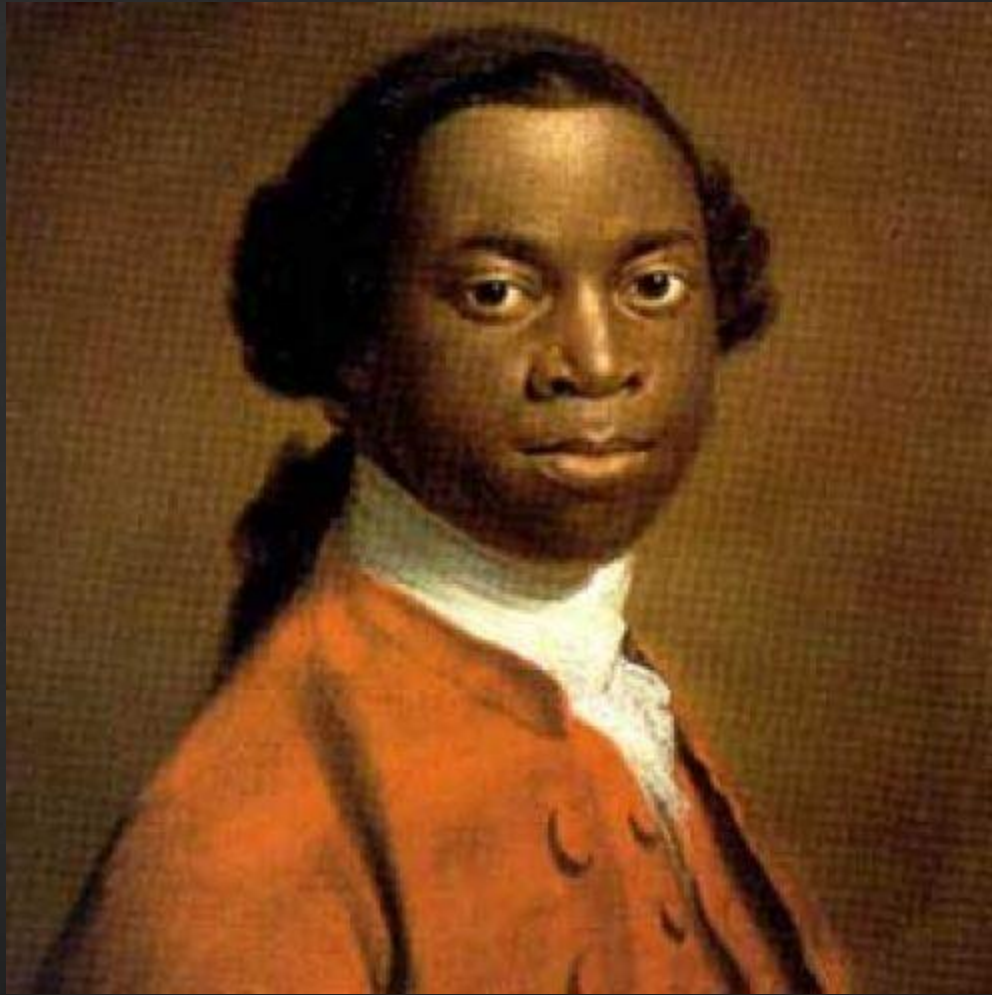
Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade

The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807
“Repugnant to the principles of natural justice”



Opposition to slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was prevalent throughout its existence. Women and men, black and white, fought to have the Transatlantic Slave Trade outlawed. By the early 1800s the United States and most of Europe had passed laws against transporting people across the Atlantic to be sold into slavery. The laws did not, however, make slavery illegal.

Olaudah Equiano (c. 1745-1797)



Equiano was kidnapped from his African family and sold into slavery at age 11. He bought his freedom while still in his early twenties and became an active lecturer speaking out against slavery. His autobiography, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, influenced the passing of the British Slave Trade Act of 1807, which abolished England's participation in the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

An Illegal Slave Trade



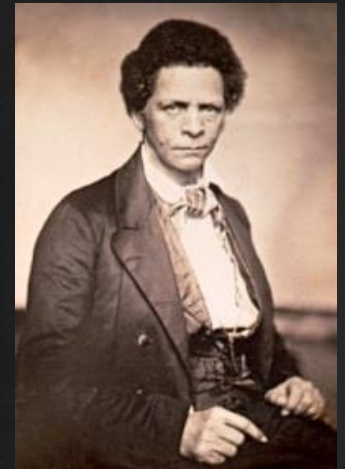
By 1810, Britain and the United States were enforcing the ban on transporting slaves across the Atlantic. But there was still money to be made, so slave ships became pirate ships as human cargo became smuggled contraband. This resulted in even worse conditions for the Africans as the “rules of decency” no longer applied.

What happened to Africans rescued from illegal slave ships?



The United States worked with the American Colonization Society to buy land in Africa. Africans who were aboard illegal slave ships were eventually shipped to an African colony known as Liberia. After the slaves were freed in the United States, tens of thousands of African Americans moved to Liberia.

In 1847, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, a free born African American from Virginia became Liberia's first president.



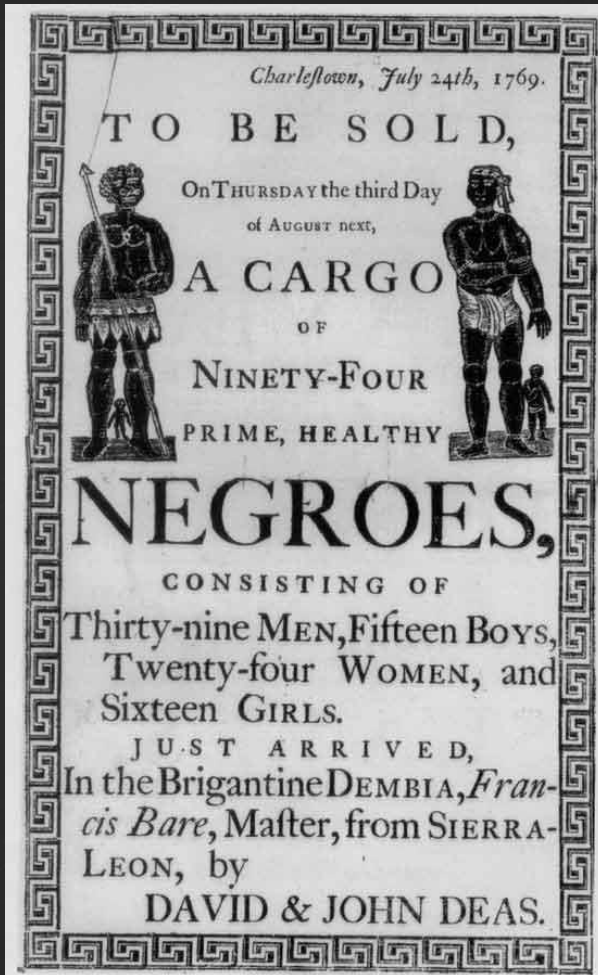
Today, Liberia's elected president is Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for restoring law and order to her country which had long been ripped apart by a series of civil wars.



Cultural Diaspora

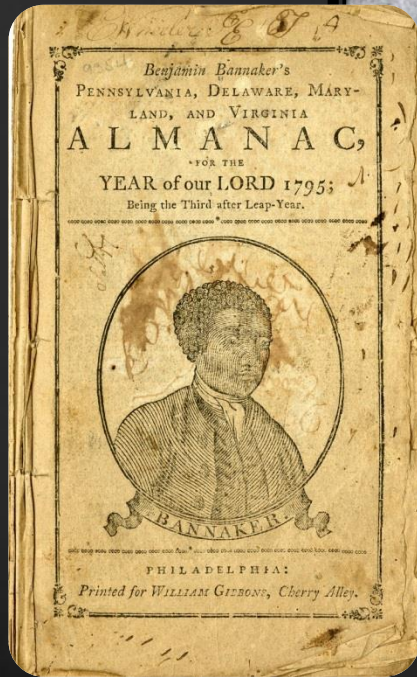
Diaspora - the movement of the population from their ancestral lands.

The result of any diaspora is the co-mingling of cultures. The Transatlantic Slave Trade spread African people and their diverse cultures across the world. African art, customs, religion, language, ritual, and folklore endured to influence science, art, agriculture, and medicine. This knowledge changed the New World and continues to impact our modern world.

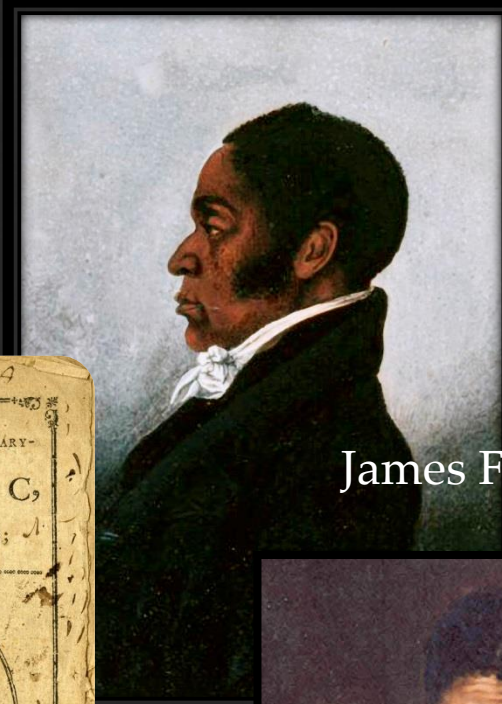


People of Note

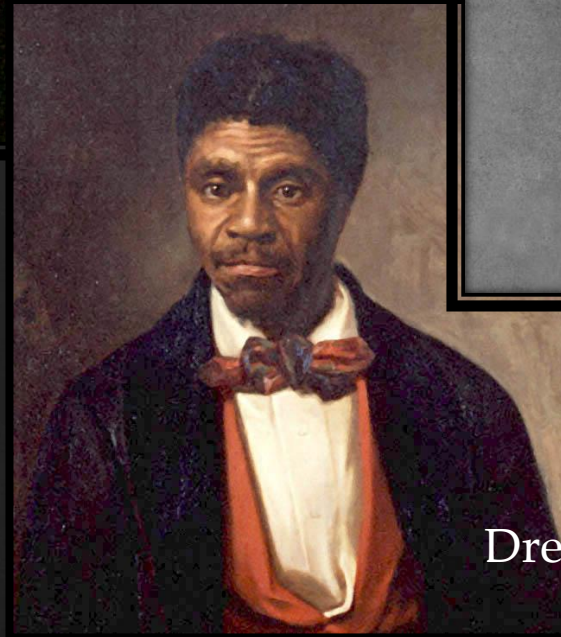
Do you know these
people of note?



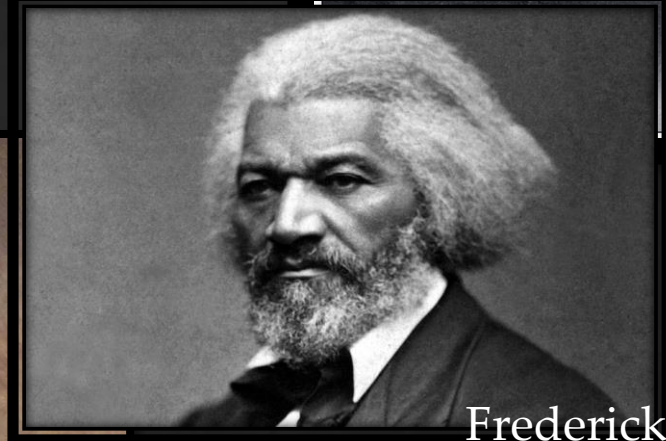
Benjamin
Banneker



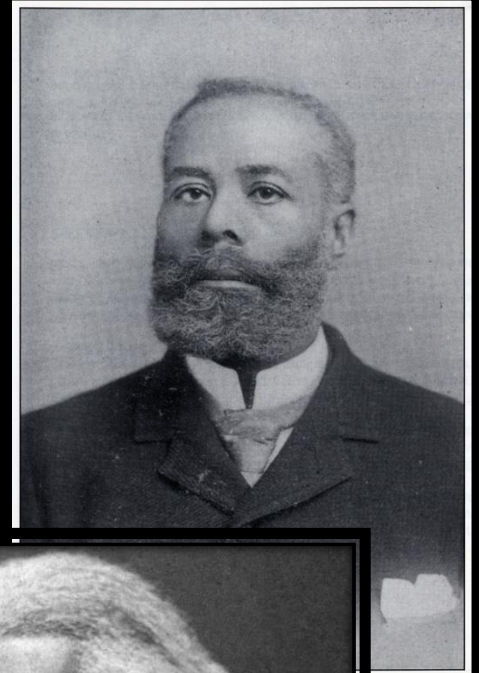
James Forten



Dred Scott



Frederick
Douglass



Elijah
McCoy

Sojourner Truth



Sarah
Breedlove
Walker



Sissieretta Jones



Mary Church Terrell



Harriet Tubman



{ Slave Ships *Guerrero*
& *Peter Mowell*



{ Slave Ship *Henrietta Marie*



Archaeology Reveals History



Dredging



Measuring



Mapping



Revealing

The Science of Shipwrecks

Photos from the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum . Key West . Florida

For additional information on the Transatlantic Slave Trade

www.melfishermuseum.org

www.keywestafricancemetery.org

www.slavevoyages.org

Google 'Crash Course World History -- The Atlantic Slave Trade #24'

www.inmotionaame.org

www.abolition.e2bn.org