

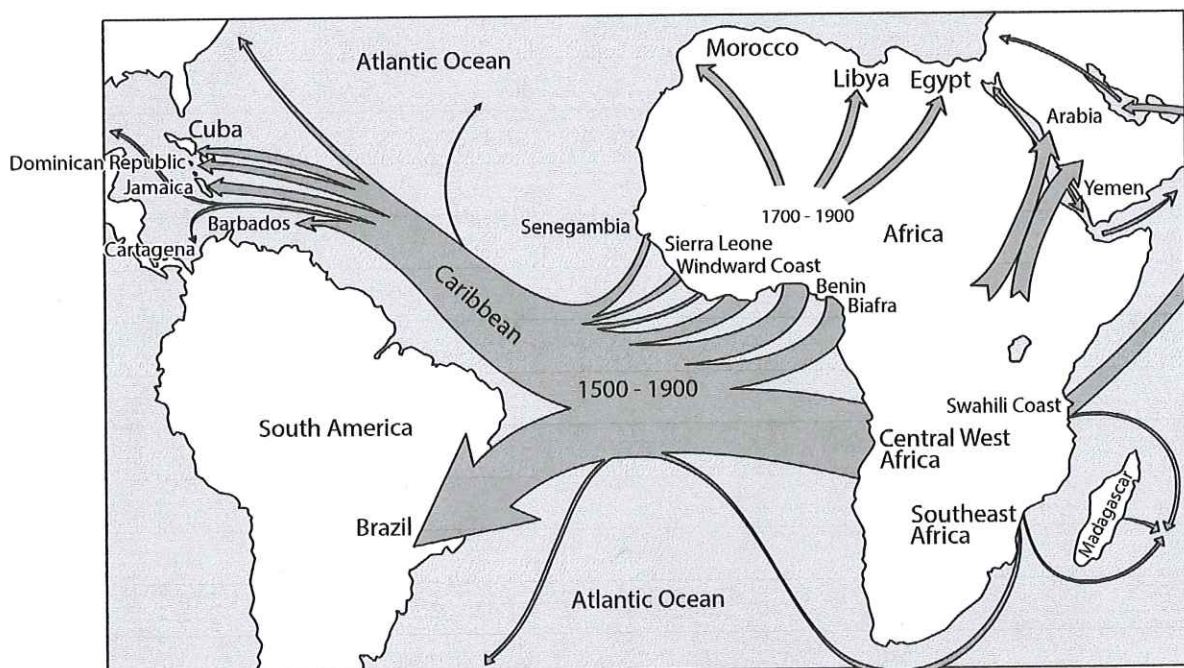
Slavery in West Africa before the Europeans

2.1

Name:

The Transatlantic slave trade took place from the 16th to the 19th centuries across the Atlantic Ocean. Most slaves were west Africans who were captured and sold by West African slave traders and bought by the Western European slave traders. It is sometimes called the 'Maafa' by African Americans, meaning 'holocaust' or 'great disaster' in Kiswahili. The slaves were one element of a three-part economic cycle: the Triangular Trade and its infamous Middle Passage which involved four continents (Africa, America, West Indian Islands and Europe), Four Centuries and the lives and futures of millions of people.

West African slaves were sourced from western and central parts of the African continent and were transported by ship to the 'New World' countries in the Western Hemisphere, particularly the United States of America. Far more slaves were taken from West Africa to South America than to North America, because the South American economy was reliant on labour intensive work such as farming and manufacturing of goods and clothing.



A map showing the Transatlantic slave trade route

DID YOU KNOW?

'Capoeira', the art of dance-fighting, was first developed by African slaves who were kept in South America. As it was illegal for them to practice fighting to defend themselves, they devised a way where they could still practice combat skills but without the slave owners knowing what they were doing.

Watch a You-Tube clip of "capoeira"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8xxgFpK-NM>



2.2

A. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

1. In your own words explain why the African slaves called the slave trade, "Maafa"? (2)

2. What was the purpose of slaves in other parts of the world? (1)

3. How many centuries did the Transatlantic slave trade last? (1)

4. Why did the African slaves develop capoeira? (1)

(Total: 5 marks)

B. RESEARCH

With a friend, use the information from the following hyperlinks below to create a mind map which summarises the nature of slavery in West Africa before the Europeans arrived.

(Total: 10 marks)

HYPERLINKS:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_Africa

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/blackhistory/africa_caribbean/west_africa.htm

http://abolition.e2bn.org/slavery_40.html

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/abolition/africa_article_01.shtml

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/africa/history>

http://www.understandingslavery.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=306:africa-before-transatlantic-enslavement&Itemid=151

Answer sheet

2

- A. 1. In your own words explain why the African slaves called the slave trade, "Maafa"? (2)

They called the slave trade Maafa because they felt the slave trade was a kind of holocaust and therefore similar to the atrocities that were inflicted on the Jews and other minority groups during World War 2.

2. What was the purpose of slaves in other parts of the world? (1)

Slaves were needed in other parts of the world to cultivate crops and run farms.

3. How many centuries did the Transatlantic slave trade last? (1)

19th - 16th = three centuries

4. Why did the African slaves develop capoeira? (1)

The African slaves developed capoeira to teach themselves how to fight without getting into trouble with their slave owners.

- B. Varied answers (10 marks)