

Slavery in Africa



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Slavery in Africa

▶ **Main Idea (Objective):**



▶ The African Slave Trade changed greatly when Muslims and Europeans began taking captives from the continent against their will.

Slavery in Africa

▶ **Lecture Focus (Essential Question):**



▶ What do you know about the time in American history when people of African ancestry were enslaved? We are going to explore slavery in African society and the beginning of the European slave trade.

Slavery in Africa

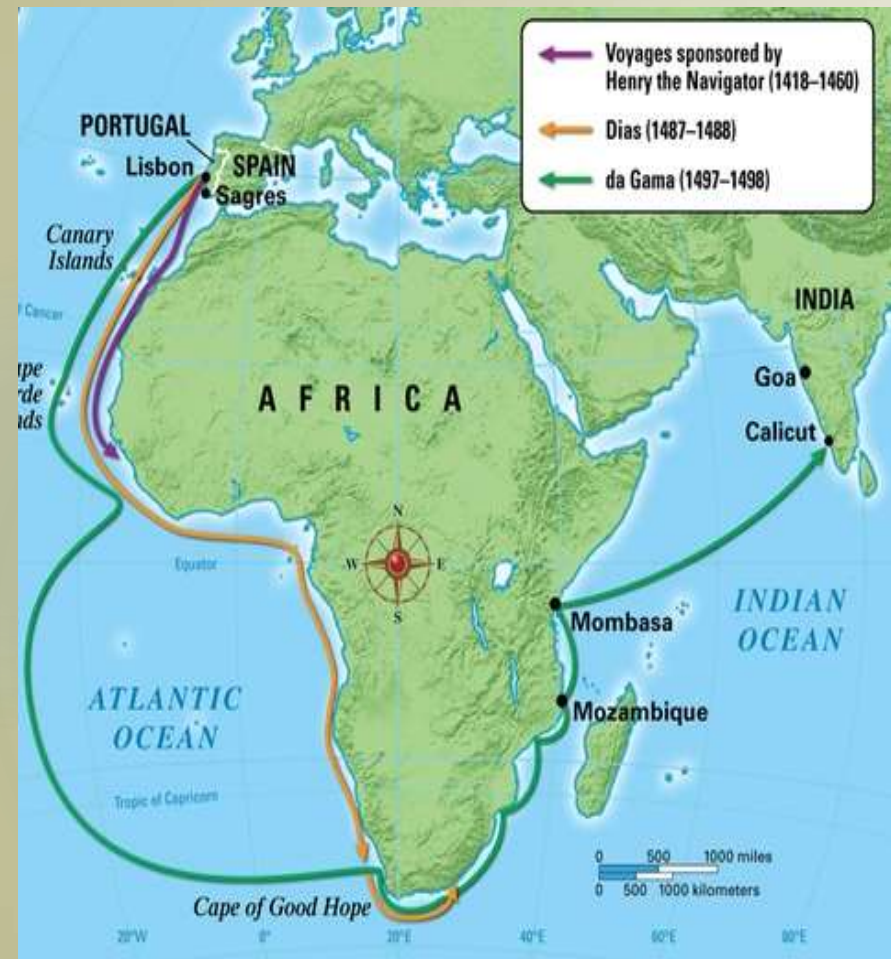
- ▶ In 1441 C.E., a Portuguese explorer, **Antao Goncalves** sailed down Africa's Western coast.



- ▶ His goal was to bring the first African captives back to Portugal to be used as slaves.

Slavery in Africa

- ▶ During the voyage, **Antao Goncalves** and his crew of nine sailors seized twelve random Africans, and then returned back to Portugal.



- ▶ These twelve captives were showed off to the Portuguese people and became the first of millions of stolen Africans that would become part of the **Slave Trade**.

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- ▶ Europeans did not invent slavery...and this is extremely important to understand.



- ▶ The **History of Slavery** spans nearly every culture, nationality, religion and complex civilizations from ancient times to the present day.

Slavery in Africa

- ▶ Specifically in Africa, **Bantu Chiefs** raided nearby villages for captives.



- ▶ These captives would be used as forced labor until their tribes freed them for payment.

Slavery in Africa

- ▶ Africans also enslaved criminals or enemies taken during war...a tactic that was also used by the Romans.



- ▶ These enslaved Africans became part of the Saharan trade, however, as long as Africans stayed in Africa, hope of escape and freedom was still a possibility.

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- ▶ Once these enslaved Africans left the continent there was little chance of becoming free.



- ▶ Enslaved Africans might also win their freedom through hard work or by marrying a free person.

Slavery in Africa

- ▶ The trade in humans also grew as the trade with Muslim merchants increased.



- ▶ The Quran prohibited enslavement of Muslims, however, it did state that Muslims could enslave non-Muslims.

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► Due to this rule, Arab traders began trading horses, cotton and other goods for enslaved, non-Muslim Africans.

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- ▶ When Europeans arrived in West Africa, a new market for enslaved Africans opened.



- ▶ Africans armed with European guns began raiding villages to seize captives to sell.

Slavery in Africa

▶ Questions:

- ▶ 1) Who was the first Portuguese explorer to bring slaves back to Portugal?
- ▶ 2) Did Europeans invent slavery? If not where did it come from?
- ▶ 3) How could enslaved Africans win their freedom?
- ▶ 4) What did the Quran say about slavery? How did Arab traders work around this?

Slavery in Africa

▶ Questions:

▶ 1) Who was the first Portuguese explorer to bring slaves back to Portugal?

▶ **Antao Goncalves**

▶ 2) Did Europeans invent slavery? If not where did it come from?

▶ **Absolutely not, Its been used in every culture and society throughout history**

▶ 3) How could enslaved Africans win their freedom?

▶ **Through extremely hard work or marrying a free person**

▶ 4) What did the Quran say about slavery? How did Arab traders work around this?

▶ **Forbade the enslavement of Muslims, Arab merchants would trade goods for non-Muslim African slaves**

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The European Slave Trade

- ▶ Let me paint you a picture from 1444 C.E., a Portuguese exploration ship docked at a port in Portugal.
- ▶ Sailors unloaded the cargo...235 enslaved Africans...all taken against their will.
- ▶ Tears running down their faces, some crying for help while being separated from their families in order to be sold at a local market.



The European Slave Trade

- ▶ Barley three years had passed since the arrival of Antao Goncalves and his first twelve African captives.



- ▶ Some merchants who had originally set out to sell goods and gold in markets now found themselves selling humans instead.

The European Slave Trade

- ▶ At first most enslaved Africans stayed in Portugal, working as laborers.



- ▶ This completely changed when the Portuguese settled the Atlantic islands of Madeira, the Azores and Cape Verde.

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- ▶ These islands had the perfect climate for growing cotton, grapes and sugarcane.



- ▶ **Plantations**, or huge farms were constructed as centers for growing these new crops.

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The European Slave Trade



- ▶ Harvesting sugarcane was extremely difficult labor and plantation owners could not afford to pay high wages for workers, so they used enslaved Africans instead.

The European Slave Trade



- ▶ Many Africans had farming skills and the ability to make costume tools, which made them incredibly valuable assets to plantation owners.

The European Slave Trade

- ▶ Enslaved people were not paid and could be purchased and fed fairly cheaply.



- ▶ By 1500 C.E., Portugal was the world's leading supplier of sugar and it was mainly due to their use of enslaved Africans.

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The European Slave Trade

- ▶ The rest of Europe followed Portugal's example.



- ▶ In the late 1400's, Europeans began exploring different parts of the world and eventually set up colonies in the Americas.

The European Slave Trade

- ▶ These European countries set up sugar plantations and brought thousands of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to work in the fields.



- ▶ New products were also established in the Americas, such as tobacco, rice and cotton...all being harvested by slaves.

The European Slave Trade



▶ Questions:

- ▶ 1) How were merchants in Portugal selling to make money? What did they stop selling?
- ▶ 2) What did Portugal find out about their newly settled islands in the Atlantic Ocean and what did they build there?
- ▶ 3) What made African slaves so valuable in terms of farming?
- ▶ 4) How did exploration change the African slave trade?

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The European Slave Trade

▶ **Questions:**

▶ **1)** How were merchants in Portugal selling to make money? What did they stop selling?

▶ **They began selling enslaved Africans instead of goods and gold**

▶ **2)** What did Portugal find out about their newly settled islands in the Atlantic Ocean and what did they build there?

▶ **They had the perfect climate to grow sugarcane and they build huge plantations on the islands**

▶ **3)** What made African slaves so valuable in terms of farming?

▶ **They had farming skills and could make their own tools**

▶ **4)** How did exploration change the African slave trade?

▶ **New European colonies used enslaved Africans for difficult labor**

The European Slave Trade



▶ **Group Writing Activity:**

- ▶ I would like you to create a list of evidence with a partner that supports an argument to end the slave trade. Once you have created a list, work with your partner to create a petition that could be presented to the King of Portugal with a clear message on why the slave trade must end.
- ▶ You could start with something like ...***Dear King Hennery IV, the immoral trade of enslaved Africa's should end immediately...***
- ▶ Be prepared to present your petition to the class tomorrow!!

The European Slave Trade

