

LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY SLAVE TRADE

Standard: SS6H1 – Explain conflict and change in Latin America.

Element: a. Describe the influence of African slavery on the development of the Americas.

Development of the Americas

The **New World** was a term describing the newly discovered land in the Americas during the European **Age of Exploration**. This is in contrast to the “**old world**” of the eastern hemisphere, particularly Europe.



Development of the Americas

European nations had many different reasons for colonizing the America's but one of the main reasons was to build a large empire that would create **political** and **economic** dominance in the world.

England wanted to use **export** the New World's raw materials (**natural resources**) back to their country to create finish goods that could be sold for a profit.

This economic policy of exporting more than importing is called **Mercantilism**.

Development of the Americas

Mercantilism takes from one country and gives to another.

It is known as a **zero** sum game because nothing is gained only taken from a weaker or new **colony** to a more **industrialized** country.

As mercantilism grew, the need for a cheap and steadily available **labor** force became a dire need to maintain exports such as **sugarcane** and **coffee**.

Development of the Americas



Sugarcane and coffee are some of the world's most labor required crops.

Development of the Americas

The empires of **Spain** and **Portugal** first used the labor of recently conquered Indigenous (native people) people from Latin America.

The success from enslaving the Latin America's **indigenous** population was short lived.

Thousands began to fall sick and die due to the exposure to a new virus in the **New World** called **Smallpox**.

Development of the Americas



Development of the Americas

With no **immunities** to the virus the Indigenous populations were nearly wiped out.

To replace the workforce, the Spanish and Portuguese began importing slave labor from West Africa in what became known as the **transatlantic slave trade**.

The **Transatlantic Slave Trade** forced **12 – 15** million black Africans to the Americas between the 15th and 19th centuries.

Development of the Americas

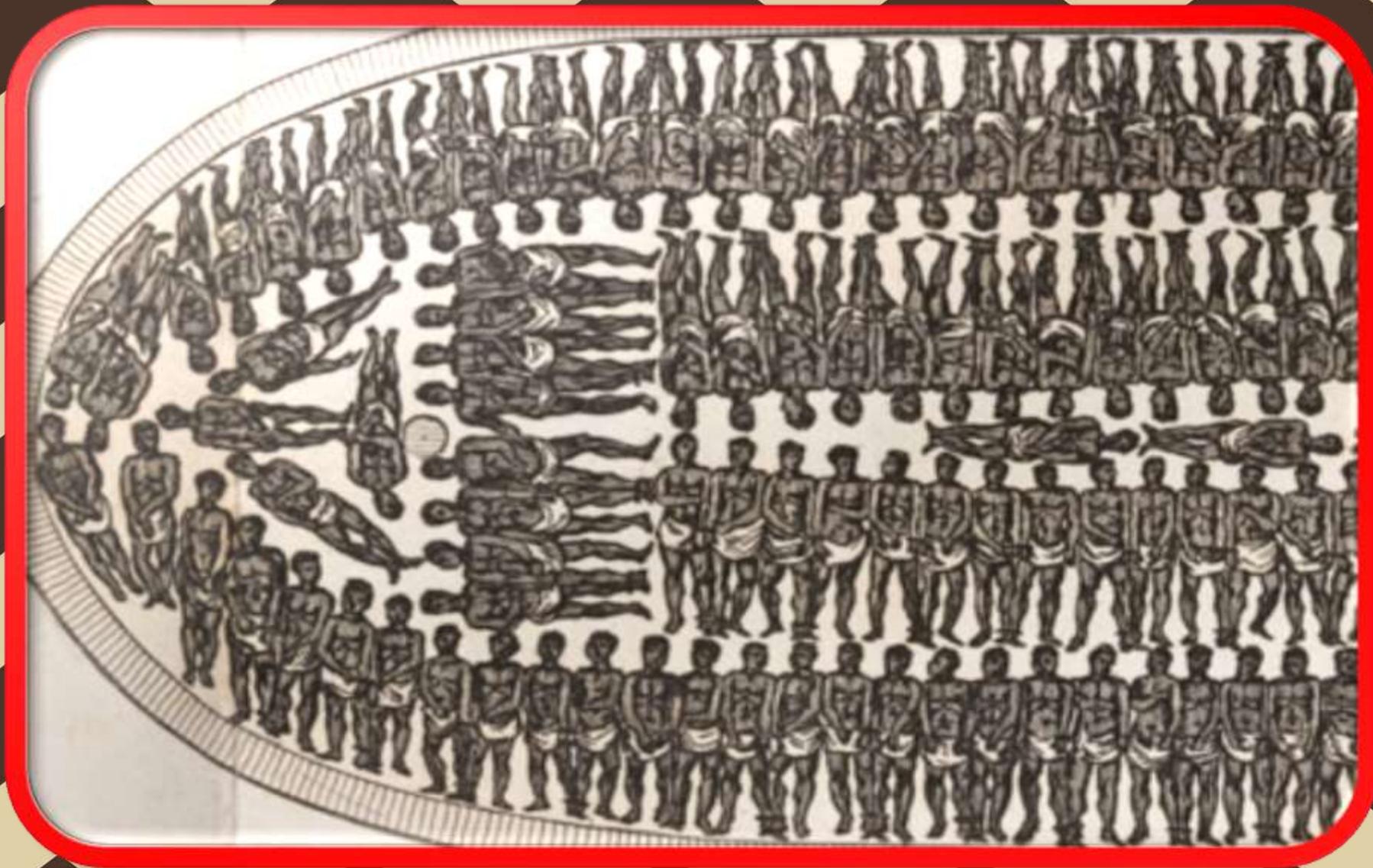
Slaves were forced to live shoulder to shoulder to each other with very little **food** and **water**.

Living and **sanitation** conditions were cost many Black Africans their lives.

Some experts estimate that **1** out of every **4** African slaves died on the journey to the New World.

The air in the hold was foul and putrid. Seasickness was common and the heat was oppressive. The lack of sanitation and suffocating conditions meant there was a constant threat of disease. Epidemics of fever, dysentery (the 'flux') and smallpox were frequent. Captives endured these conditions for about two months, sometimes longer.

Development of the Americas



African Slave Ship Diagram
(Wikimedia Commons)

Development of the Americas

Conditions on slave ships were atrocious to say the least.

To maximize **profits** slave owners would cram slaves into hulls as tightly as possible to fit more into each boat.

Many ships fit between **500** to **700** slaves on board.

Could you imagine being locked up in a confined space with little food and water for months and months?

Development of the Americas

Slaves were treated as animals as they were naked and **shackled** together with several different types of **chains** to assure no escape.

No **bathroom** facilities along rampant diseases brought forth tremendous loss of **life** on each voyage.

To make things even worse, many Black Africans were forced to lie beside the dead and decaying bodies until the voyage was over.

Development of the Americas



Development of the Americas

Slaves who survived the voyage to the New World were forced into agricultural work on **plantations** and **haciendas**.

A **hacienda** is a Spanish agricultural plantation throughout Latin America during the colonial period.

Some were sent to work in **gold** and **diamond** mines in Brazil.

Development of the Americas



Four Hundred year old Hacienda from the Colonial period.

Development of the Americas

Haciendas were developed as profit-making, economic enterprises linked to regional or international markets from the **New World** to the **Old World**.

The owner of an hacienda was termed an **hacendado**.

Owners made huge profits from the demand in sugar and coffee in Europe.

Prior to the New World, Europe had never tasted **sugar** along with large amounts of other crops such as **pumpkin, potatoes, tomatoes, corn** and squash.

Development of the Americas

This mutual trade from the New World to the Old World became known as the **Columbian Exchange**.

The Columbian Exchange was not limited to just crops but **livestock, minerals**, and even disease.

Unlike **mercantilism** which requires only one country to benefit, the **Columbian exchange** allowed both the New World and Old World to trade goods that were previous unknown to the other.

Development of the Americas

Slavery continued in the New World until the early 19th century of which it was **abolished** in Europe in the early 19th century.

Slavery still persisted in Latin America through the 1880s, most notably in Cuba and Brazil.

Over time, **intermarriage** among those **Spanish** and **Portuguese** ancestries with indigenous peoples and black Africans gave rise to a new cultural identity in Latin America which prevails today.

Development of the Americas



Many people in South America are descendants from slaves from over 500 years ago during the colonial periods of the New World.