



## Introduction lesson

### Lesson 4.1: Trade (purchase and sale)

#### To the Upper Coast

The MCC directors gave Capitan Menkenveld orders to sail to the Upper Coast first. The prices were low along the Upper Coast. The captain was ordered to sail along the Upper Coast as long as possible and purchase as many African persons as possible. Only once there were no more enslaved Africans to be purchased, was he allowed to sail on.

#### Trading

Upon The Unity's arrival to the Upper Coast it was made clear that the trading could begin. This was done by firing a cannon shot and sometimes by lowering a sail. From the coast canoes came to the ship loaded with rice, water, and enslaved Africans. These were traded for example for ammunition, weapons, mirrors, textile and glass. Along the Upper Coast there were a small number of enslaved African's. If no canoes came, the ship sailed on and fired a new shot. Further along the coast gold and ivory were purchased and larger numbers of Africans were on offer simultaneously.

#### Trade book

In The Unity's trade book all trade transactions were kept track of. In it all the goods that were traded for Africans were listed. Before trading could begin, the captain first needed to pay taxes to the local princes. This was also done with goods. The taxes were also noted in the trade book.

#### The Unity becomes a trade vessel

Shortly after the arrival in Africa the carpenters aboard The Unity built a latrine for the slaves first. This happened on the same day the first woman arrived on board, December 10, 1761. In the log book the latrine was indicated as 'slave house'. The latrine for the women was built overboard at the aft of the ship. The 'slave house' for the men was built two days later along the side of the 'tween deck. A few days later again they built a slave galley. This kitchen, built to prepare the meals for the slaves, was built in the front of the ship. During the journey the slaves slept in bunks between the decks: the men on the actual 'tween deck and the women on the quarterdeck. As soon as the number of captives increased, an extra level was added in between decks for more bunks; first on one side of the ship, later on the other. For these bunks custom planks were sawed and brought along from Middelburg.

#### More information

Trade along the Upper Coast: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/afrika-en/at-the-windward-coast/?lang=en>

Trade along the Upper- and Ivory Coast: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/afrika-en/ivoorkust/?lang=en>

Trade along the Ivory- and Gold Coast: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/afrika-en/goudkust/?lang=en>

Trade results Western Africa: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/afrika-en/resultaat/?lang=en>

Building slave quarters on board: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/uitreis-en/aanpassingen-aan-het-schip/?lang=en>