



Lesson 4.1

# Trade



The Unity mostly traveled to the Windward Coast, the current Liberia, because prices here were low. Once The Unity arrived to the Windward Coast, a cannon shot was fired. This was the sign trading could begin. The Africans sailed to The Unity with trade goods, such as rice, water, gold, ivory and slaves. The goods and people were, amongst other things, traded for ammunition, weapons, knives, textiles and alcohol. In The Unity's trade journal they kept track of exactly which goods were traded for objects and humans.

### ① Transport of slaves

After a journey of several months The Unity arrived in Western Africa. The goods were traded for gold, ivory and slaves. For the housing of the slaves, slaves quarters needed to be constructed. The necessary supplies were brought from Middelburg.

Where on the ship were the slave quarters built?

- a. On an extra deck above the hull.
- b. In a boot behind the ship.
- c. Somewhere between the crew's quarters.

The enslaved Africans sometimes remained on the ship for months before the ship departed to the West Indies.

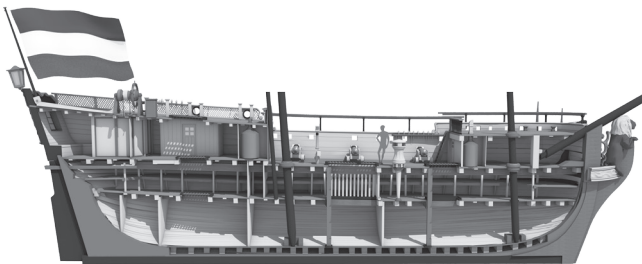
Why did it take so long for the ship to depart to the West Indies?

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### Elmina

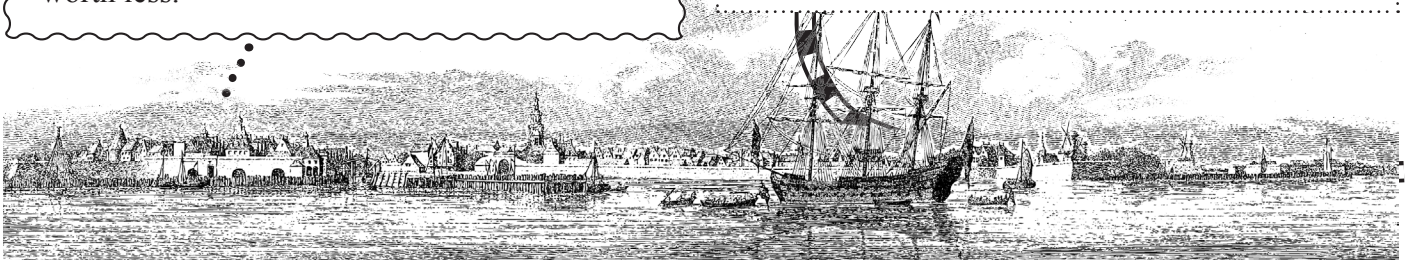
The West-India Company had a number of forts located along the Ivory and Gold coast. One of the most famous was Elmina. Elmina was used as a main control center and storage facility for the enslaved Africans. They were held there until the captains of the slave ships bought them. Before they were bought the Africans were brought to a square. On the square a surgeon inspected them. The men and women needed to be between 15 and 35 years old and physically fit. Healthy children under the age of 15 were also bought, but they were worth less.

### ② Trade

Which goods were traded in Western Africa for rice, water, gold, ivory and slaves?

Circle the correct answers:

- |                  |                |                |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>coffee</i>    | <i>cotton</i>  | <i>flower</i>  |
| <i>textiles</i>  | <i>cacao</i>   | <i>herbs</i>   |
| <i>cheese</i>    | <i>alcohol</i> | <i>beads</i>   |
| <i>sheets</i>    | <i>ivory</i>   | <i>sugar</i>   |
| <i>glassware</i> | <i>weapons</i> | <i>mirrors</i> |
| <i>gold</i>      | <i>shells</i>  | <i>bread</i>   |



③ **Slave sale**

Goods brought from Middelburg were traded along the coast of Western Africa for as many slaves as possible. The Unity transported the Africans to Berbice in the Caribbean. If the captain was unable to sell all the slaves there, he was allowed to sail on to Essequibo or Demerary. In his instructions it was stated that he could only sell the slaves there for:

- a. mirrors and beads
- b. guns and liquor
- c. sugar and bills of exchange

④ **Answer the following questions**

1. Where did they board the slaves for their voyage to the 'new world'?

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2. Why were the slaves gathered there?

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3. What conditions needed to be met to make a slave saleable?

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.....  
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4. What did a ship's surgeon do?

.....



⑤ **Sailor**

Choose:

The sailor *did / did not* make the food.

The sailor *did / did not* operate the sails.

The sailor *did / did not* steer the ship.

The sailor *did / did not* scrub the deck.

The sailor *did / did not* care for the sick.

Boatswain *is / is not* another name for sailor.

The sailor *is / is not* higher ranking than the sailmaker.

