



Lesson 4.2

The Middle Passage



The passage from Africa to the America's, the Middle Passage, was the most infamous part of the triangle voyage. Sailing for weeks on end without land in sight must have been horrendous. The Unity left Africa with 319 enslaved Africans, 33 crewmembers, 42 large barrels of fresh water, food supplies and firewood and nearly 4000 'Middelburg pounds' of ivory. The journey across the Atlantic lasted nearly two months.

① Ship

The Unity was 22.60 meters long, 3.20 meters deep and 7 meters wide. When the ship departed from Africa there were 352 people on board and a heavy load. The ship had one 'tween deck measuring 1.40 meters high. The content was slightly more than 170 m³.

How much space would a slave have in this situation?

..... m³

On board an average 18th century slave ship an African would have an average space of about 170 cm. long, 30 cm. wide en 70 cm. high.

What does this mean for the slaves?

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Calculate how many cubic meters that is.

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In the Netherlands the law dictates how much space each student in school should have.

In primary schools that is at least 3,5 m² per student.

In secondary schools it is more, depending on the type of school.

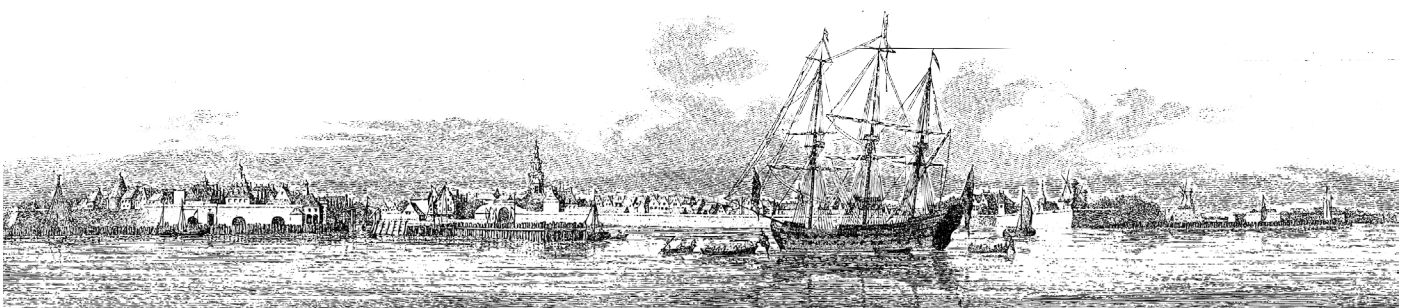
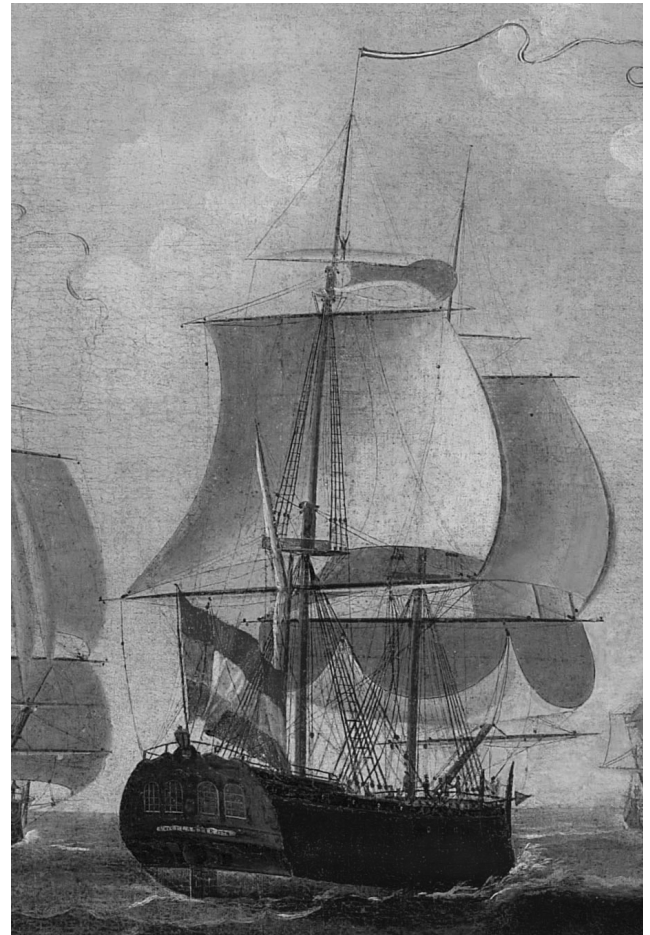
How many primary school pupils would be allowed on The Unity, according to current Dutch law?

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Are there any situations nowadays where people on ships are as cramped as the slaves on The Unity?

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② Water

During the passage The Unity had 42 large barrels of fresh water on board. Assuming that such a barrel contains about 160 liters of water, how much water is that?

Tip: use this box for your calculations →

If the water was divided equally over the 352 people on the ship, how much is that for each person?

The passage took two months. How much was that per person, per day?

Do you think the water was really divided equally?

Would there have been a way to acquire more fresh water?



③ Calendar questions

Let's assume today is Thursday January 16th, what day of the week is it on February 1st?

A book is loaned from the library on January 23rd and needs to be returned 14 days later. What is the latest return date?

A journey begins on April 29th and ends on May 10th. How many days did the journey last?

How many days does February have this year?

What day of the week is March 1st this year?

④ Time table

How far can you get?

	second	minute	hour	day
minute	60	1		
hour	1	
day	1
week
year
century

(You probably will need some extra paper...)

