



Lesson 4.2

The Middle Passage



The passage from Africa to the Americas, 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.

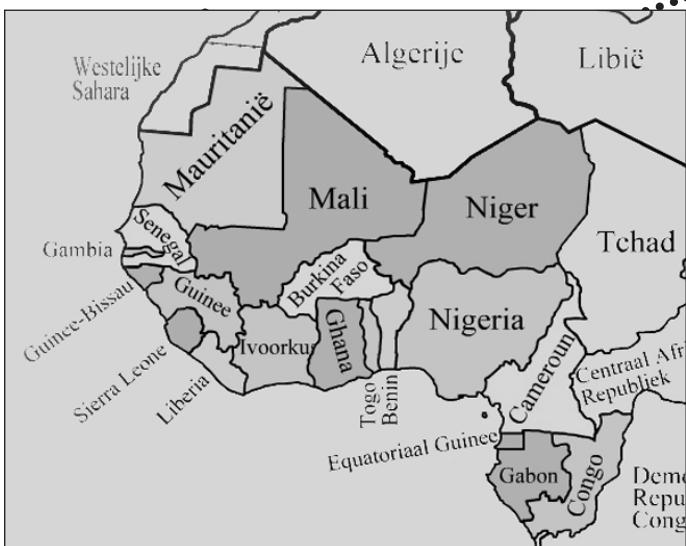
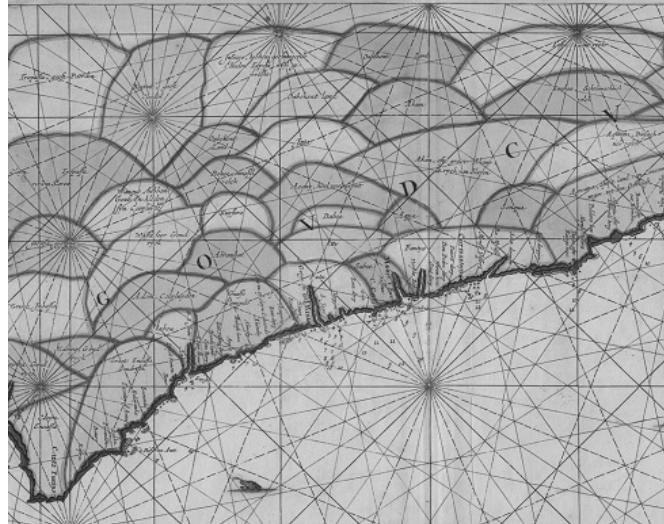
① Gold Coast

The Unity sailed to various places along the Gold Coast to obtain enough slaves.

Name some places they passed which are located along the Gold Coast.

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Hint: use the internet or an atlas



② Elmina Fortress

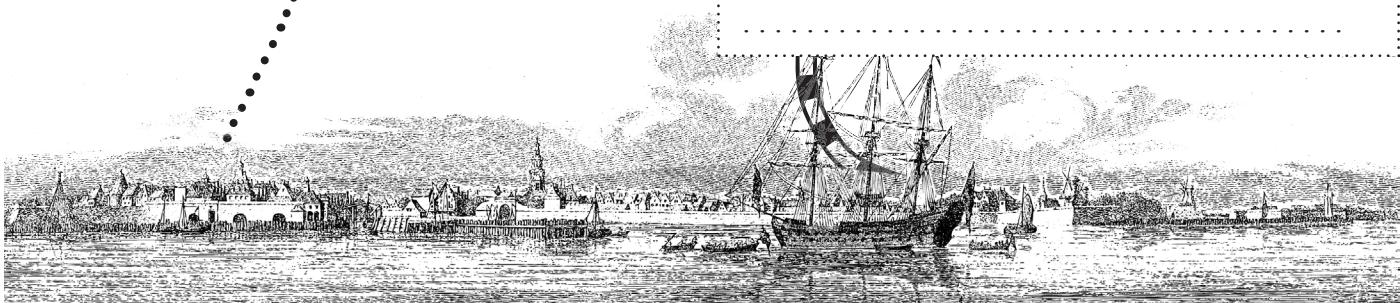
Slaves were held captive at the Elmina Fortress, in the current Ghana. Why there?

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The Unity departed to Western Africa fully loaded with trade goods. There the goods were traded for enslaved Africans. To house the slaves, part of the ship was rebuilt. The ship sailed along the West African coast for five months before beginning her journey to the West Indies.

Why did it take so long before The Unity could begin to cross the Atlantic Ocean?

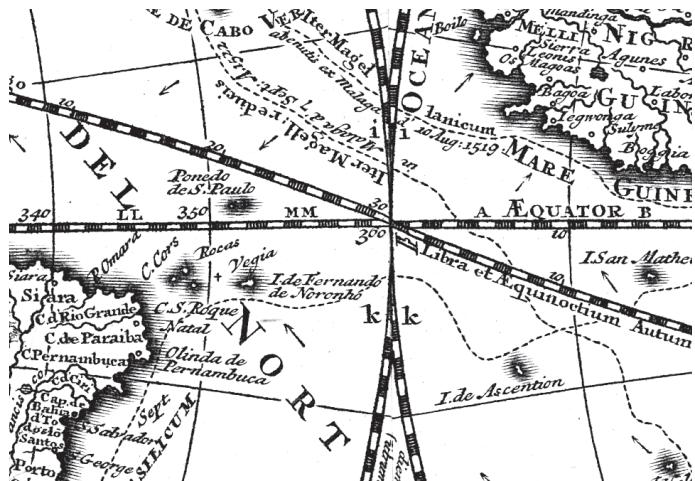
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③ Cargo

In addition to slaves, what else was shipped to the West Indies?

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2.
3.
4.
5.



Did you know... that imprisoned Africans sometimes revolted while on the slave ships? A few times they even succeeded in overtaking a ship. Famous examples are The Vigilante, from Zeeland, in 1780 and on the Spanish La Amistad in 1839.

④ Transport

The enslaved Africans were held in special areas.

Where were these areas and how were the slaves transported?

Try to imagine what it must have been like during one of these voyages. Was there sufficient water, could the slaves shower, go to the toilet? Describe how you envision this.

The passage could take several months. What do you think this meant for the slaves aboard the ship?

