



Lesson 5.1

West Indies



With the West Indies, or The West, area's of Middle America were implied, the current Caribbean and the colonies in the northern part of South- or Latin America. The name West Indies or The West stems from the time Christopher Columbus thought he had reached the Indies via the western route. The America's were later also called The New World, as opposed to the old world (Europe, Africa and Asia).

① Slave voyages

During the approximate 1600 Dutch slave voyages roughly 600.000 African prisoners were transported to the New World. The circumstances on board were appalling, many slaves did not survive the journey. They were housed in tight, damp spaces, often chained.

They were given minimal food and drink and barely had space to move. Occasionally they were aired on deck and forced to move to music.

What happened to many slaves during this arduous journey?

How were the slaves transported?

What was important for the health of the slaves?

② Aboard

Life aboard for a slave was a living hell. Why do you think this was?

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③ Rules

The slaves on board were not treated well, even though there were strict guidelines for their treatment.

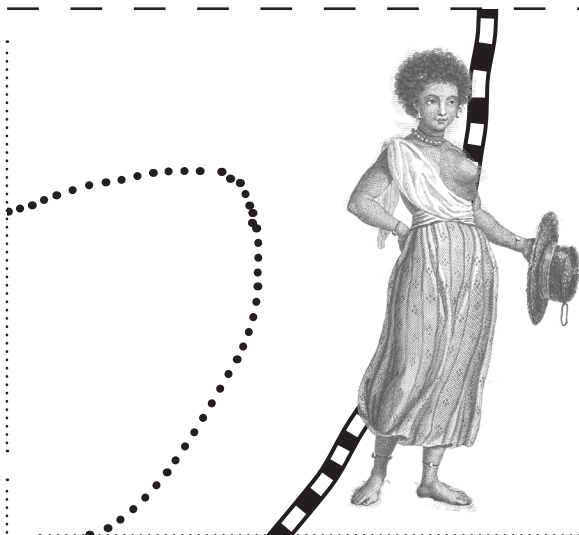
What rules or guidelines can you think of?

1.
2.
3.

What would have been the purpose of these rules?

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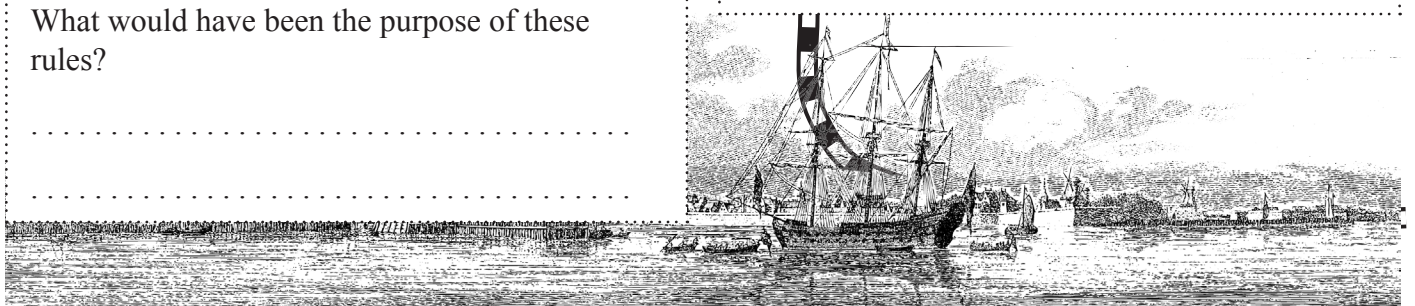


④ Sold

The enslaved Africans were mostly sold at auctions in the West Indies. Who bought the Africans?

Why were they bought?

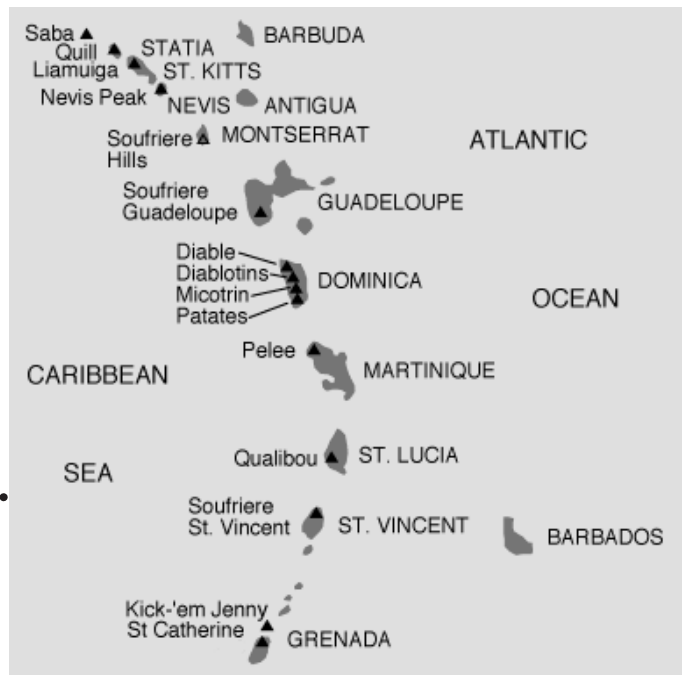
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⑤ West Indies

On this map you see a part of the West Indies. Write down the names of 10 islands in the Caribbean.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10



⑧ Oceans

Which two bodies of water are on the map?

1.
2.

⑥ Islands

What do we best know these islands for?

Most slaves were brought to the West Indies.
What do we call this area of the world now?

⑨ Sales list

Here you see a part of the list of sold slaves. What do you notice?

Ms = Men, W = Women, Js = Boys, Md = Girls, No = Number

⑦ Death

After a long, arduous journey across the Atlantic Ocean, The Unity arrived in the West Indies after approximately two months.

Of the 326 Africans purchased, seven died before the ship departed from Western Africa. The Unity departed to the New World with 319 African prisoners. In total 20 Africans died during the Middle Passage. On July 7, 1962 The Unity arrived at the Berbice colony, the current Guyana, with the remaining 299 slaves on board.

What do you supposed happened to the slaves who died aboard during the Middle Passage?

Ms	W	Js	Md	No	Buyers
1				1	Plant[age] Frekenhorst[?]
			1	2	Harkenroth voo[r] Wijs
			1	3	Pl[antage] Elisab[eth] Alexander
			1	4	Hend[rik] Meijers
1				5	Jan Broer
	1			6	Kohler
1				7	Philip Broer
	1			8	Philip Broer
	1	child		9	Hosch