The Middle Passage: Literacy Groups

The Journey for Slaves from Africa to the Americas



Student Names \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Each member of the group will choose a role to take on for your literacy group. Everyone should watch the videos and read the texts, then discuss and answer the questions as a group. You will find the video and text on the website <https://sites.google.com/a/bertie.k12.nc.us/the-middle-passage/>. Write down your groups responses on this sheet and turn it in for a project grade. Be prepared to share your answers and ideas.

Group Roles

* Director: Responsible for leading discussion of the questions and keeping the group on task.
* Recorder: Responsible for recording the group’s ideas and answers to the questions.
* Reporter: Responsible for sharing the group’s ideas with the rest of the class during class talk.
* Vocabulary Investigator: Responsible for researching and explaining difficult vocabulary words from the reading.

Source # 1 (Online Article): The Middle Passage: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part1/1p277.html>

1. Based on the article, why was the term ‘Middle Passage’ used for the transportation of slaves from Africa to the Americas?
2. Why might captured slaves waiting in the ‘factories’ on the west coast of Africa have been especially scared?
3. Based on the article, how would you describe conditions for slaves on ships making the journey across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas?

Source # 2 (Online Article): The Life of Olaudah Equiano: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part1/1p276.html>

1. What does the article teach us about Equiano’s childhood in Africa?
2. How does Equiano describe life on the slave ship while traveling the Middle Passage?
3. Can you explain what Equiano’s experience as a slave was like once he was purchased by a Royal Navy Lieutenant by the name of Michael H. Pascal?
4. By 1766, Equiano had earned enough money to buy his freedom. What did he do with his life once he gained his freedom?

Source # 3 (Online Photos): The Slave Trade: <http://www.history.com/photos/slavery-slave-trade/>

1. (Pics 1 – 4) What kind of artifacts / monuments concerning slavery are found in Africa?
2. (Pics 1 – 4) In what ways can these artifacts / monuments teach us about slavery in Africa?
3. (Pics 5 – 6) What do photos # 5 and 6 tell us about the journey of slaves from Africa to the Americas?
4. (Pics 7 – 10) What do photos # 7 – 10 tell us about the institution of slavery in the United States?

\* Discussion Question(s): How has examining “The Middle Passage” improved your understanding of African-American History?

\*Student Generated Questions: Can your group create 2 discussion questions that you would like to ask your classmates about the experience of African slaves being taken from Africa to the Americas?\*

1.

2.