

The Middle Passage

By Daniel P. Mannix and Malcolm Cowley

Please write your responses on your paper.

1. What was the magnitude of the slave trade from 1700 to 1807? Approximately how many slaves are estimated to have been carried across the Atlantic annually?
2. Identify the area from which most of the slaves came.
3. Relate how it was that certain Africans ended up as slaves.
4. List the nationalities of the ships involved in the slave trade. List, also, the great slaving ports of England, France, and the United States.
5. What profit came from slave voyages? How did Liverpool benefit from those profits?
6. Describe the triangular trade that originated in England and that which originated in the United States. What commodities were traded and where were they traded?
7. Define “tight-packers” and “loose-packers.” Which method prevailed and why?
8. How did the vessel, *Brookes*, allocate space aboard for the tight-packing of slaves? How many slaves were they able to carry when they abided by these space allocations? How many slaves had they carried before these regulations were required?
9. What was the most dangerous time for a slaver and what made it so dangerous?
10. What does the historical record tell us about how tamely African submitted to their lot? What do we know about the frequency of slave mutinies?
11. What were the shortest and the longest passages?
12. List five items that describe the life of a slave during the Middle Passage.
13. Relate three ways particular slaves killed themselves during the Middle Passage.
14. Define “fixed melancholy?”
15. Name four diseases brought from Africa and four brought from Europe.
16. Relate what the authors write about the effects of the following diseases: scurvy, smallpox, and dysentery.

17. What was the estimated mortality rate for slaves on the Middle Passage? How was it figured?
18. How does the mortality rate for slaves compare to that of indentured servants and others who crossed the Atlantic to America during this period?
19. What provisions did slaver captains make for emergencies such as being short of provisions or contagious sickness?
20. How were the slaves disposed of when they arrived in North America?
21. When did the slave trade end in Britain and the United States?