

**What can personal
accounts tell us about
the middle passage?**



The Middle Passage

What can personal accounts tell us about the middle passage?

Lesson 1





Enquiry Question

**How can we know about
the middle passage?**

Learning Intentions

Today we are learning about the experiences of enslaved people as they were transported across the Atlantic ocean.

Success Criteria

I will be able to **explain** why personal accounts of History are a valuable source

I will be able to **describe** what the middle passage was like for enslaved men, women and children based on their personal accounts



Starter Task

What is the Middle Passage?

On the board you will see a time lapse showing ships crossing the middle passage between 1520 and 1860.

While you watch, consider the following:

- 1) What countries do you see participating in the Atlantic Slave Trade?
- 2) Is there any period of time where you see a big change?
- 3) If so, when? Any idea why?

Link:

<https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/database#timelapse>

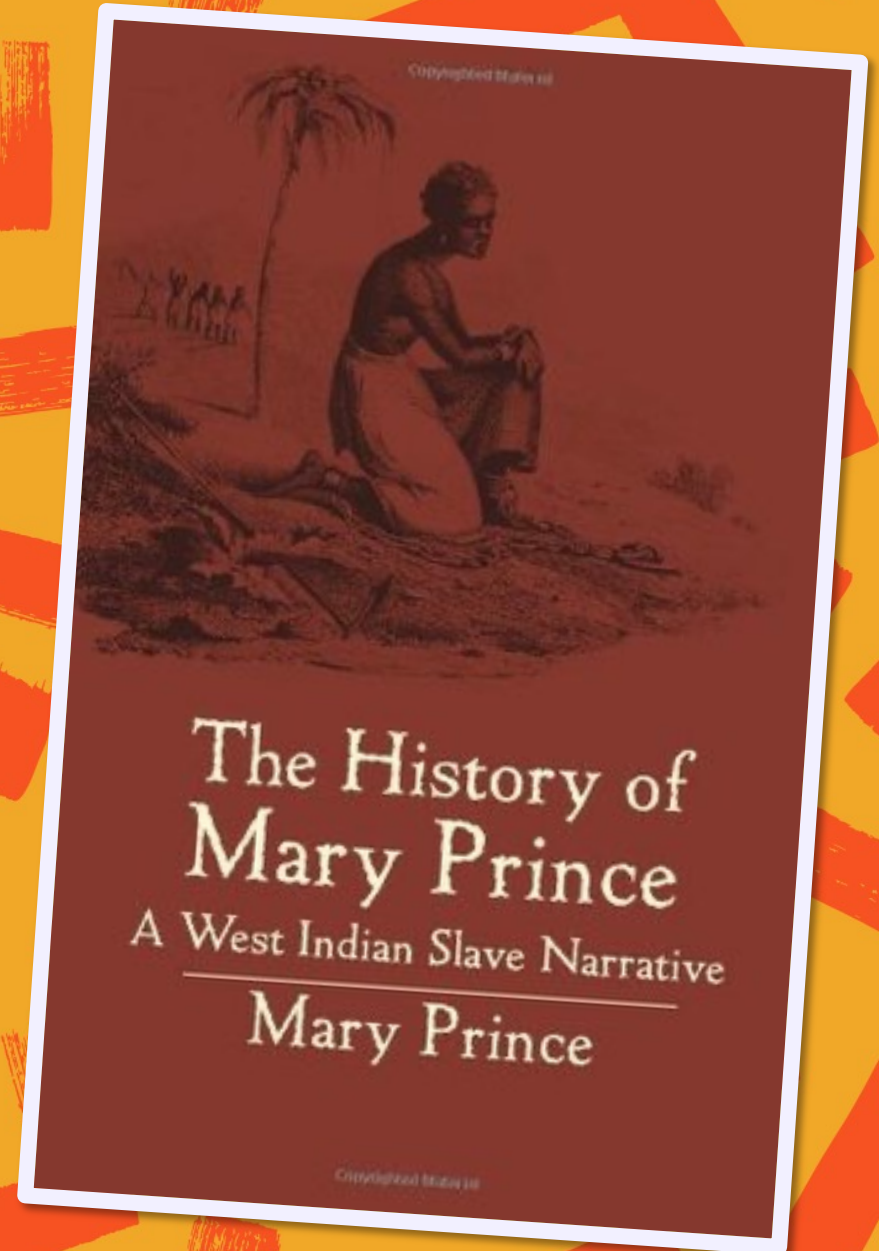


Discuss

Think, Pair, Share

What does Mary Prince, a formerly enslaved person born in Bermuda, mean in her quote?

'I have been a slave, I have felt what a slave feels and I know what a slave knows ... hear from a slave what a slave has felt and suffered.'





Discuss

**What is the importance
of using first-hand accounts
to learn about History**



Discuss



What was the experience on the Middle Passage like for enslaved people?

In groups, you are going to find out about what the middle passage was like from **4 different personal accounts** of people who were on the ships.

You will **each investigate one account** and then **share** what you have found out with your group to complete the table.



Task

Now that your group has discussed each account, use the information within these sources to complete the table below.

1. Treatment	2. Conditions	3. Punishments	4. Resistance



Discuss

Account of a young girl, Benomê, from the interior of Africa. **Enslaved at the age of 7 in 1833.**

- 1) What do you think has happened to the ship Benomê is on?
- 2) How might she and the others on board have felt during this experience?

“When the slavers had been at sea about three weeks, they heard one night a tremendous noise on deck, the trampling of feet, and the firing of guns; and when the hatches were removed the next morning, the slaves looked up and saw several strangers, “gentlemen with fine coats and caps, shining with gold”. These were the officers of a British man-of-war, which had captured the slavers after a severe contest, and who now called upon the poor Negroes to come up on deck, assuring them they were now free! On ascending from the hold of the vessel, they beheld the deck covered with blood; and the captain and sailors belonging to the slaver sitting side by side, bound in irons.”



Plenary Exercise

Paired Reflection

With a partner, **reflect** on the following questions:

- 1) What do personal accounts tell us?
- 2) What can't they tell us?
- 3) What other sources of evidence might we use to get a fuller picture of what is taking place?



Exit Pass

In one word...

What single word would you use to describe the experience of the middle passage?

The Middle Passage

Was there a typical experience of the middle passage?

Lesson 2





Starter Task

The Middle Passage

- You will see a virtual tour of a 3D reconstructed slaving vessel.
- In your jotter, note down which parts of the ship do you recognise from last week's accounts



Link:

<https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/ship#3dmodel/0/en/>

Learning Intentions

Today we are learning about how enslaved people were transported across the Atlantic ocean.

Success Criteria

By the end of the period I will be able to **describe** the journey across the Atlantic ocean.

By the end of the period I will be able to use quantitative data to **analyse** a historical event



Was there a typical experience of the middle passage?

Last period we looked at personal accounts of the middle passage and now have a deeper understanding of what enslaved people went through on the journey across the Atlantic ocean.

What did you learn about the individual you studied?

- Origin
- Destination
- Enslaving Country?
- Age at enslavement
- Treatment?

Today we will be using data from different slaving vessels in order to find out whether the experiences we analysed last week would be 'typical' of the middle passage.

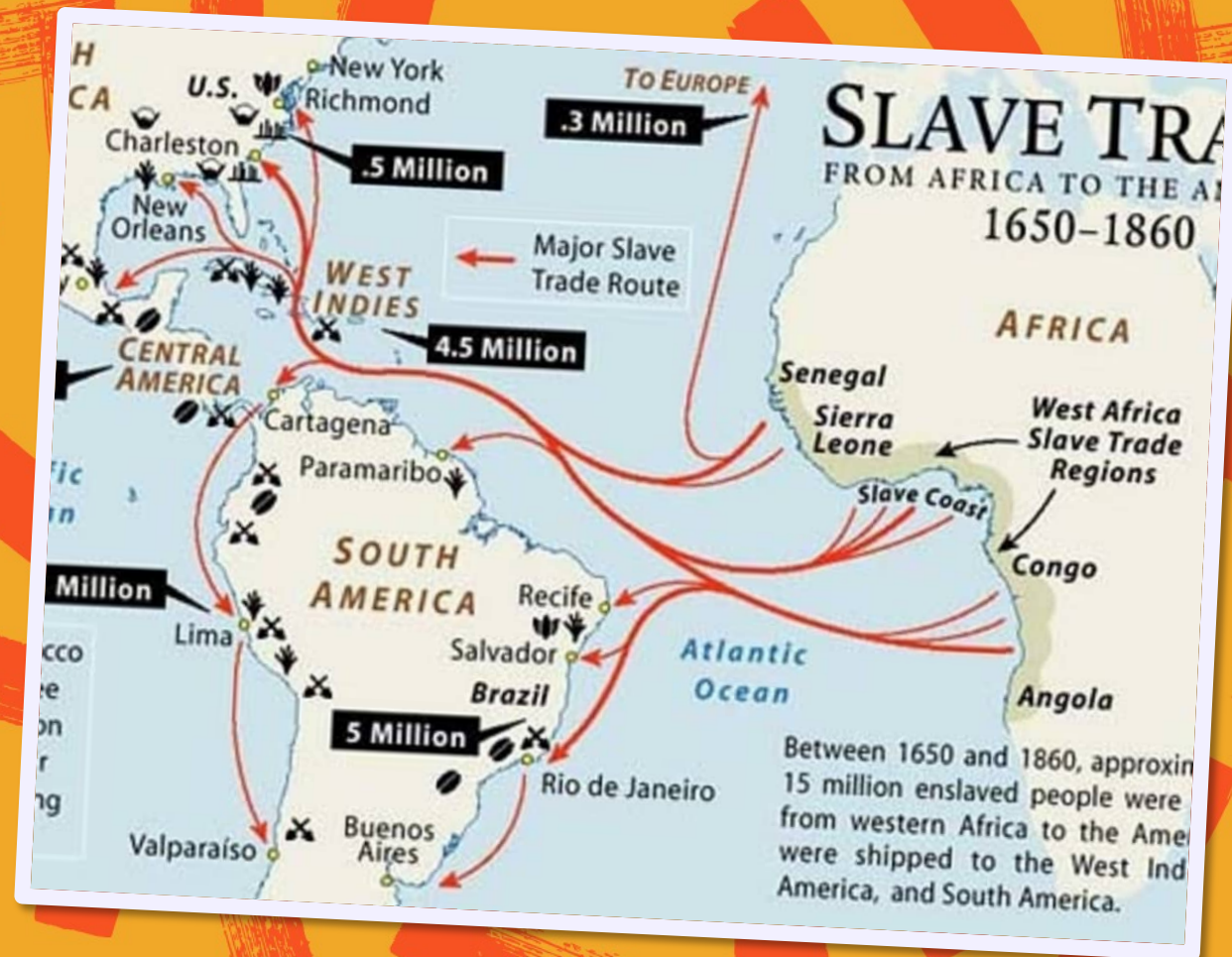
Task

Case studies

You will now be given an information pack with details about specific ships that made the journey across the middle passage. You should work in groups of 2 or 3 in order to fill in the remainder of your fact file!



Scan Me





Plenary exercise

The BIG question:

“Was there a typical experience of the middle passage?”

Give a detailed answer that includes at least **ONE** piece of evidence from today’s lesson.



Developed by

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