

# Atlantic Slave Trade

Text Book

# **Atlantic Slave Trade**

## **Text**

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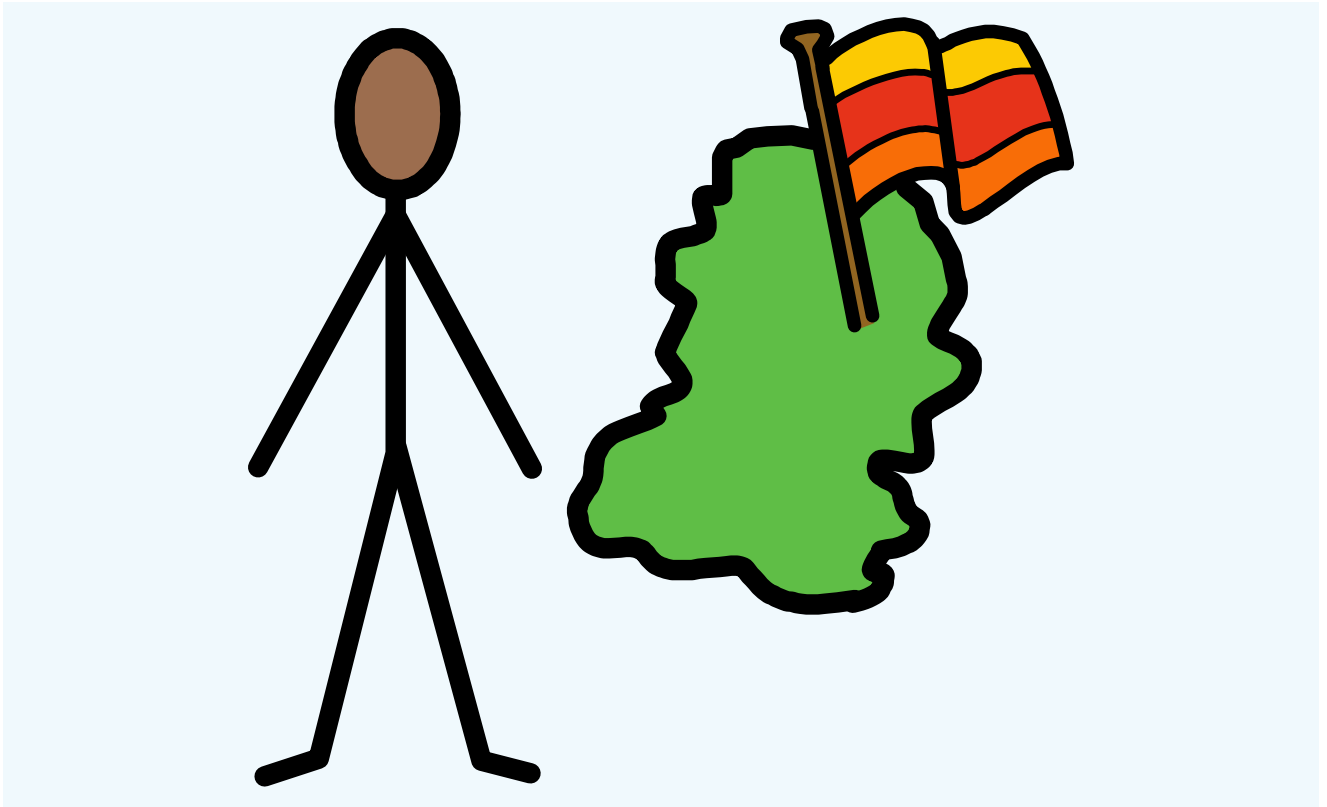


In the 16th century Europeans sailed to America.

They built plantations to grow cash crops.

The plantations grew tobacco, sugar and cotton.

Europeans wanted cheap labour to grow the crops.

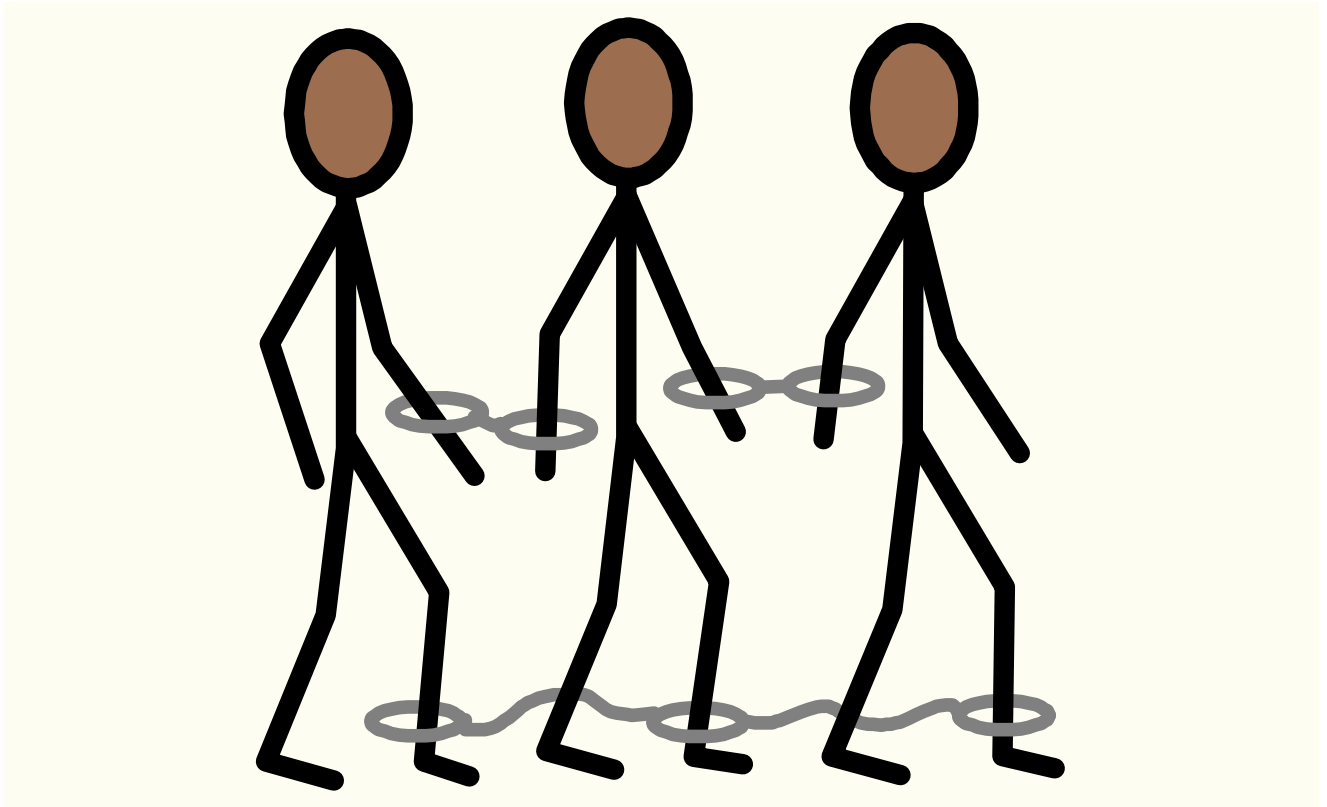


The Spanish had enslaved the indigenous peoples.

The Indians died from diseases and harsh treatment.

The Europeans began buying slaves from Africa.

This became known as the Atlantic slave trade.

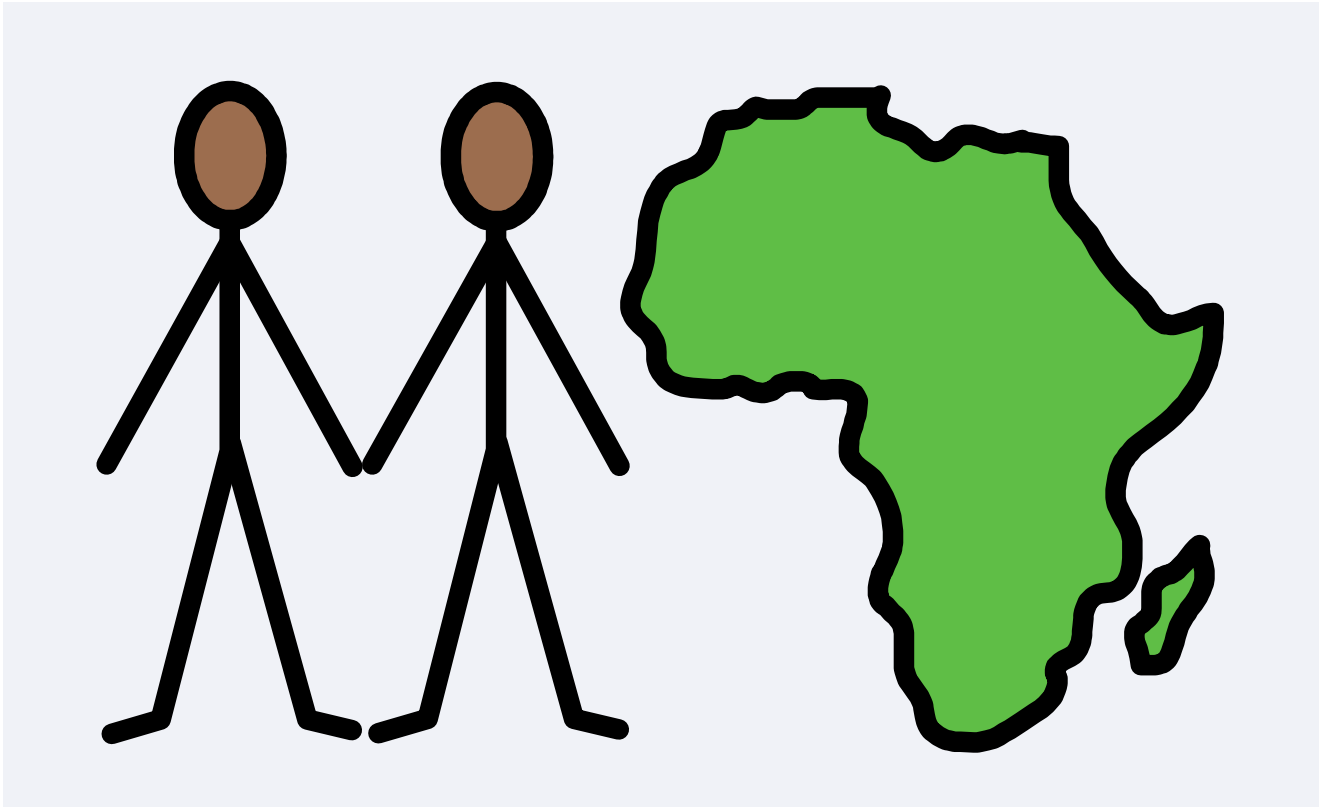


A slave is a person who is owned by someone else.

A slave is forced to work without pay.

A slave is owned like cattle or livestock.

A slave can be bought and sold as property.

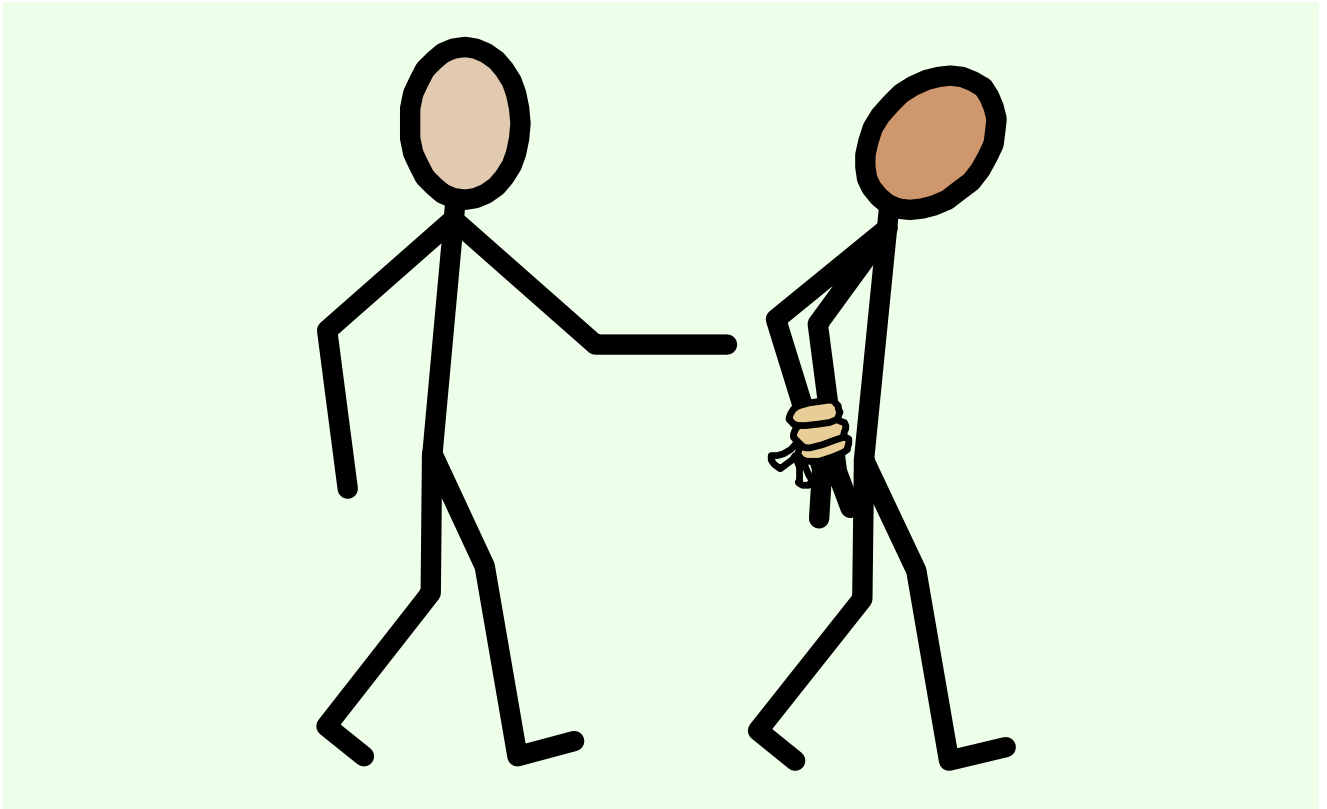


The slaves came from Central Africa and West Africa.

There had been slavery in Africa for centuries.

African people captured in wars were often enslaved.

But now millions more Africans were enslaved.



Captured African people were taken to the coast.

They were separated from friends and family.

They were crowded inside filthy slave ships.

Conditions were so bad that many slaves died.



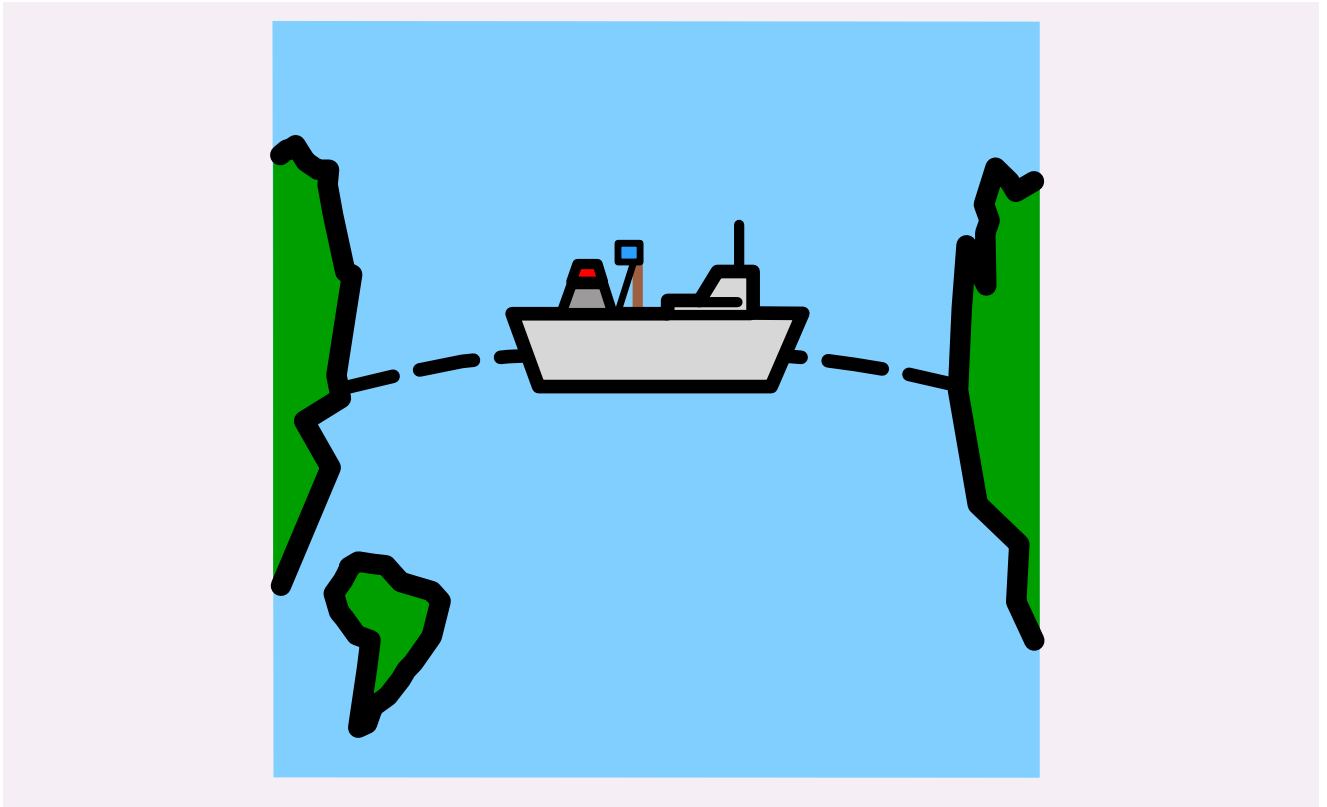
The slave trade was part of a triangle.

Ships sailed from Europe to Africa with trade goods.

Ships sailed from Africa to the Americas with slaves.

Ships sailed from America to Europe with cash crops.



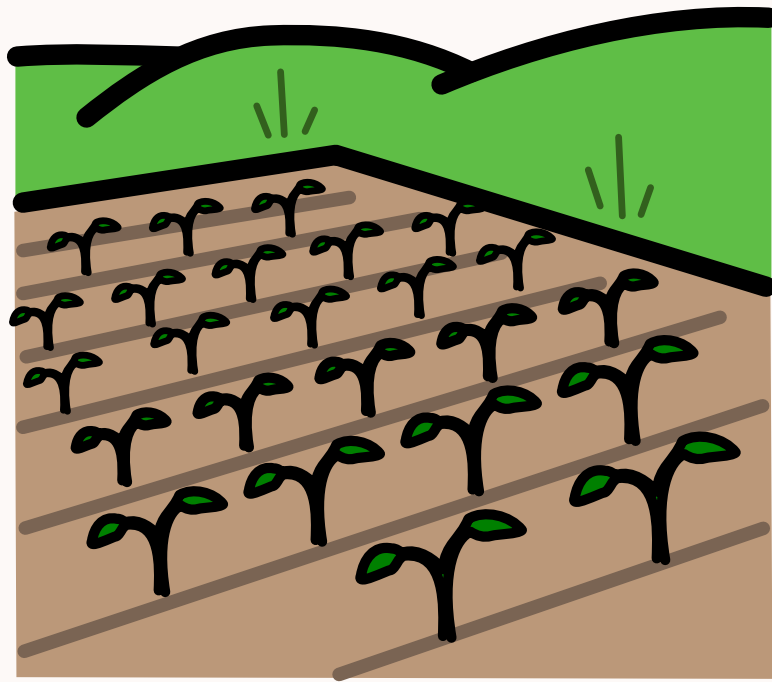


The voyage from Africa is called the Middle Passage.

Dirty crowded slave ships were at sea for months.

Many enslaved people didn't survive the voyage.

Enslaved people who survived were sold at auction.

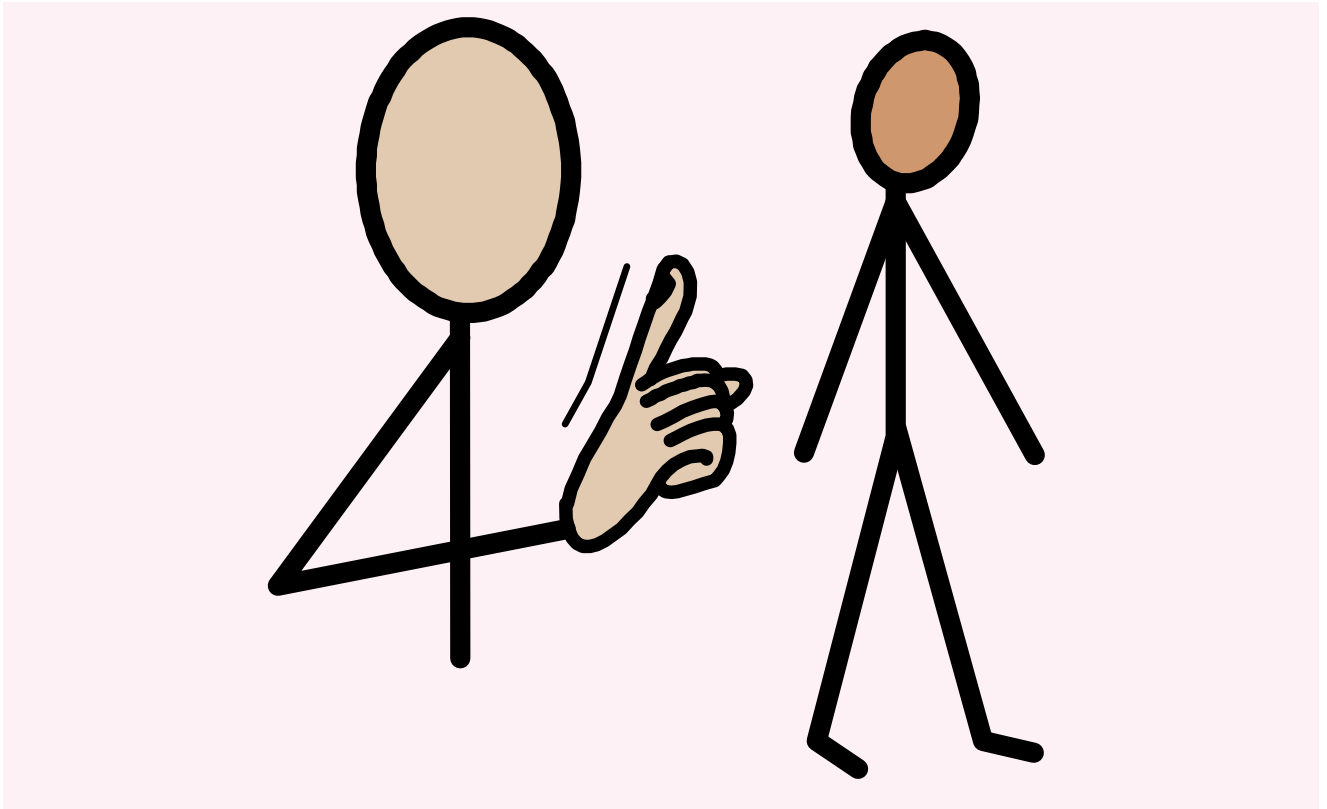


Slaves were taken to plantations in South America.

Slaves were taken to the Caribbean and the USA.

Slaves worked as field hands on the plantations.

Slaves worked as domestic servants for white owners.

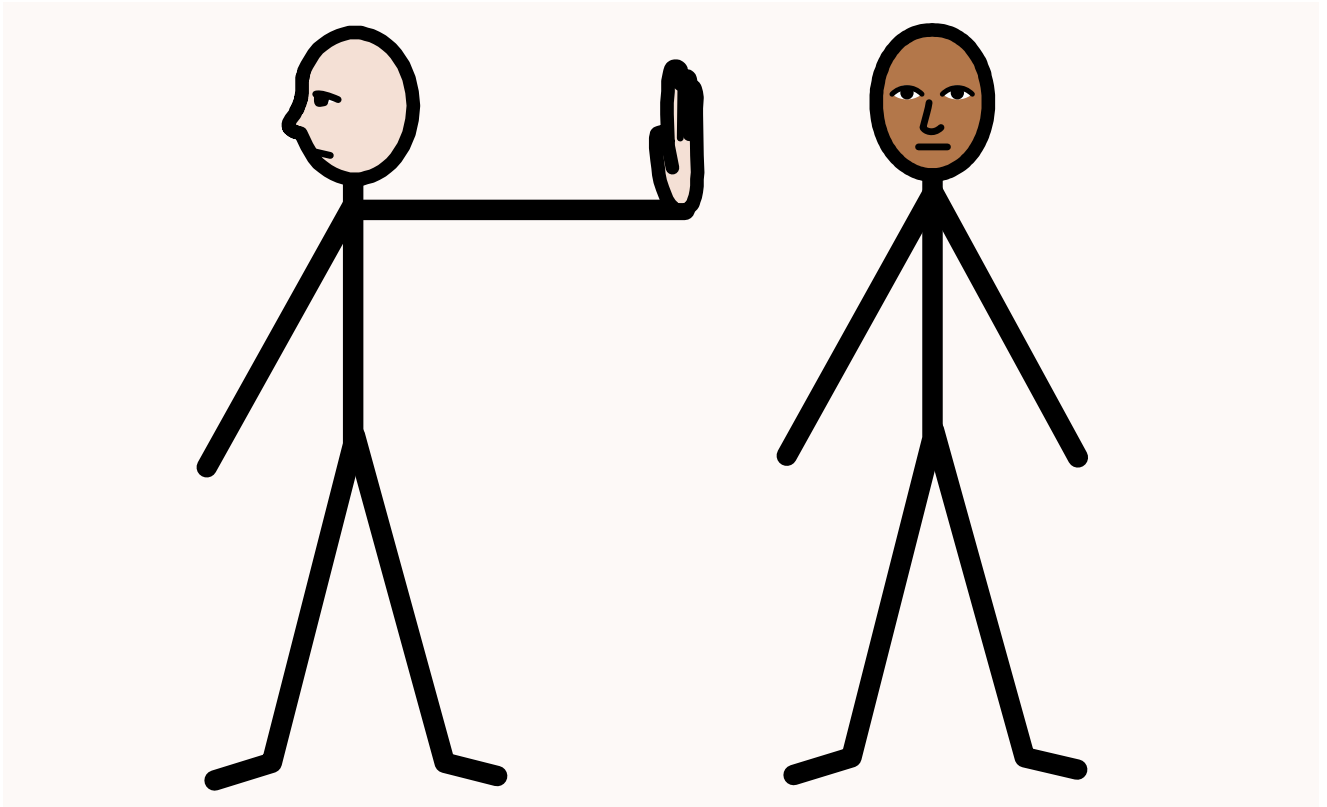


Conditions on the plantations were very bad.

Slaves were forced to work and treated harshly.

Slaves were beaten and abused by white owners.

Many slaves died from wounds and diseases.

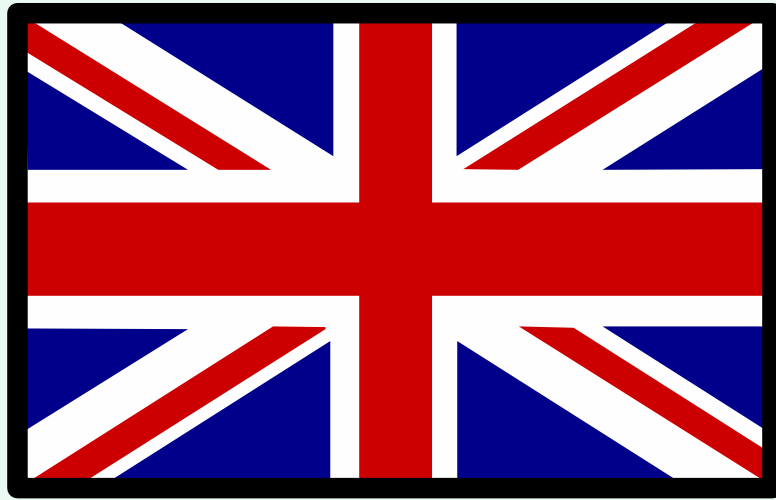


Racist ideas were used to justify slavery.

Europeans considered Africans to be inferior people.

They said Africans were naturally slaves.

Other Europeans disagreed and worked for abolition.



For nearly 300 years Britain traded in slaves.

It is thought over 12 million Africans were enslaved.

British companies bought and sold enslaved people.

Britain made huge profits from slavery.



The abolitionist movement grew stronger in Britain.

In 1807 Britain abolished the slave trade.

Slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1833.

Slavery continued in other places until much later.



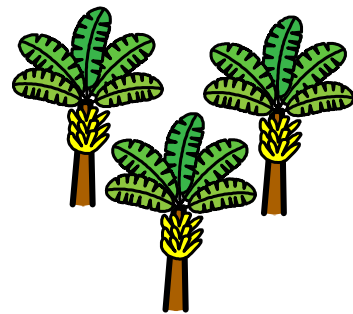
Europe



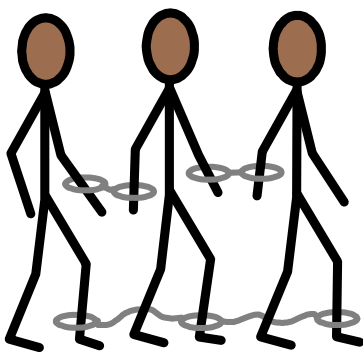
Africa



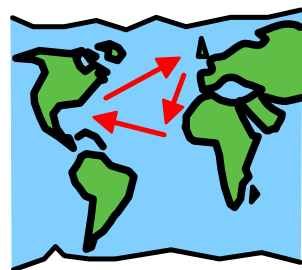
America



plantations



enslaved



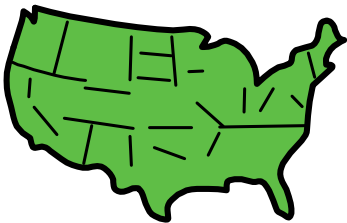
Atlantic  
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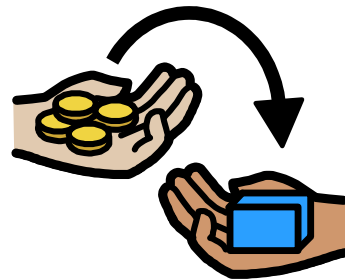
South America



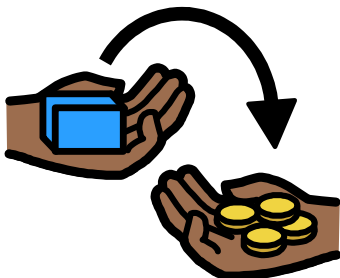
Caribbean



USA



bought



sold



abolition