Work and Trade

Read how labor systems shaped colonial life.

SS24.4.3 "Explain the reasons for the establishment of the labor systems used in colonial America, including apprenticeship, indentured servitude, and slavery, and describe the differences among them. 3a Describe the triangular trade system..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline why each kind of labor was used, and circle words that show when the work ended or did not end. Number the three trade routes in the order the passage describes them.

Workers and Ships in Colonial America

1. Colonial farms, shops, and homes needed workers. A young person could become an apprentice to learn a trade, such as printing, while working for a skilled adult. The adult provided training, food, and a place to live. This training lasted several years. Some people from Europe became indentured servants to pay for their trip across the ocean. They agreed to work for a set number of years and then were free.

2. Colonists also wanted workers to grow crops such as tobacco. In the Americas, enslavers forced Africans to work without pay or freedom. Unlike apprentices and indentured servants, enslaved people could not leave after a set term. Colonial laws made slavery last for life and passed it from parents to children. Families were often separated. Enslaved people kept their skills and hopes and resisted in many ways.

3. Before they were kidnapped, West Africans lived in many communities. They farmed, traded, learned skills, and cared for families. In the triangular trade, ships carried goods from Europe to Africa. Traders exchanged goods for people who had been kidnapped or captured. The forced ocean trip to the Americas was called the Middle Passage. People suffered in crowded, dangerous ships. Ships then carried goods, such as tobacco and sugar, from the Americas to Europe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did a young person become an apprentice, and what did the skilled adult provide?

2. How were indentured servitude and slavery different in how long people had to work?

3. How did the three parts of triangular trade connect Europe, Africa, and the Americas?

4. How did West Africans' lives before kidnapping differ from their experiences during the Middle Passage and in the Americas?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 5 or 6 sentences. Explain why colonists used apprentices, indentured servants, and enslaved people, compare their freedom, and connect triangular trade and the Middle Passage to changes in West Africans' lives.

ANSWER KEY

Work and Trade

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline why each kind of labor was used, and circle words that show when the work ended or did not end. Number the three trade routes in the order the passage describes them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did a young person become an apprentice, and what did the skilled adult provide?	**An apprentice worked to learn a trade. The skilled adult provided training, food, and a place to live.**
2	How were indentured servitude and slavery different in how long people had to work?	**Indentured servants worked for a set number of years and then were free. Enslaved people were forced to work for life, and slavery could pass to their children.**
3	How did the three parts of triangular trade connect Europe, Africa, and the Americas?	**Ships carried goods from Europe to Africa. Traders exchanged goods for kidnapped or captured people, who were forced to the Americas. Ships carried goods from the Americas to Europe.**
4	How did West Africans' lives before kidnapping differ from their experiences during the Middle Passage and in the Americas?	**Before kidnapping, they lived in communities, worked, and cared for families. They suffered on crowded, dangerous ships during the Middle Passage. In the Americas, they were forced to work without freedom, and families were often separated.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Apprentices worked to learn trades, while indentured servants worked for a set number of years to pay for travel to the colonies. Colonists also wanted workers to grow crops, so enslavers forced Africans to work without freedom. Apprentices and indentured servants had an end to their service, but slavery lasted for life and could pass to children. Before kidnapping, West Africans lived in communities where they cared for families and used their skills. Traders took kidnapped people from Africa on the crowded, dangerous Middle Passage to the Americas. In triangular trade, ships also carried goods from Europe to Africa and crops from the Americas to Europe.

Accept answers in students' own words that distinguish time-limited service from lifelong, inherited slavery. For the museum label, look for accurate reasons for all three labor systems, all three trade routes, and a change in West Africans' lives.