Across Three Routes

Read how trade routes changed human lives.

SS24.4.3a "Describe the triangular trade system, including the Middle Passage of the transatlantic slave trade, and describe the experiences of West Africans before and after being kidnapped and forced into slavery."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about West Africans' lives before capture, and circle the three trade routes. Write 1 beside a detail about the Middle Passage and 2 beside a detail about life in the Americas.

Lives Across the Atlantic

1. Before the slave trade changed their lives, West Africans lived in many different communities. Some grew crops, made cloth, or traded in busy markets. Children learned skills and spent time with relatives. During the transatlantic slave trade, some people were kidnapped by raiders, while others were taken during wars. Captors forced them away from home and sold them to European traders near the coast.

2. Triangular trade linked three routes across the Atlantic Ocean. European ships carried goods such as cloth and tools to West Africa. There, traders exchanged goods for people who had been captured and enslaved. Other ships took enslaved people to the Americas on the Middle Passage. Ships brought goods such as sugar and tobacco from the Americas to Europe. Not every ship traveled all three routes.

3. On the Middle Passage, enslaved Africans were held in crowded spaces below deck. Many became sick, and many died. Some resisted by refusing food or fighting back. In the Americas, enslavers forced survivors to work, often on farms that grew crops for trade. Families were separated, yet people kept parts of their cultures alive through stories, music, food, and shared traditions. They also built new communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did capture change the lives of the West Africans described in the first paragraph?

2. Describe the three routes of triangular trade. What moved along each route?

3. What was the Middle Passage, and what were two experiences people had on it?

4. How did life change for survivors in the Americas, and how did they keep parts of their cultures alive?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum exhibit label about one imagined West African person, using facts from the passage. Describe life before capture, explain all three trade routes, and show what the person faced on the Middle Passage and after reaching the Americas.

ANSWER KEY

Across Three Routes

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.3a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about West Africans' lives before capture, and circle the three trade routes. Write 1 beside a detail about the Middle Passage and 2 beside a detail about life in the Americas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did capture change the lives of the West Africans described in the first paragraph?	**People who had lived with relatives and worked in their communities were forced away from home and sold to European traders.**
2	Describe the three routes of triangular trade. What moved along each route?	**Goods such as cloth and tools went from Europe to West Africa. Enslaved people were forced from West Africa to the Americas. Goods such as sugar and tobacco went from the Americas to Europe.**
3	What was the Middle Passage, and what were two experiences people had on it?	**It was the forced ocean journey from West Africa to the Americas. Enslaved Africans were held in crowded spaces, became sick, died, or resisted.**
4	How did life change for survivors in the Americas, and how did they keep parts of their cultures alive?	**Enslavers forced survivors to work and separated families. People kept parts of their cultures alive through stories, music, food, and shared traditions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A young West African weaver made cloth and lived near family before being kidnapped. European ships brought cloth and tools to West Africa, where traders exchanged goods for captured people. A ship forced the weaver across the Atlantic on the Middle Passage, where crowded spaces made people sick. In the Americas, enslavers forced the weaver to work on a farm, but the weaver shared stories to keep traditions alive. Ships carried sugar and tobacco from the Americas to Europe, completing the three connected routes.

Accept different imagined people and occupations if their experiences fit the passage. The label should accurately connect all three routes and describe life before capture, the Middle Passage, and life in the Americas.