

Atlantic Trade Links

Trace how trade connected four regions across the Atlantic.

SS.5.A.4.5 "Explain the importance of Triangular Trade linking Africa, the West Indies, the British Colonies, and Europe."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Africa, the West Indies, the British Colonies, and Europe. Then number the three sentences that explain the links from Europe to Africa, from Africa to the Americas, and from the Americas to Europe.

A Connected Atlantic World

- ① During the 1600s and 1700s, merchants created trade routes across the Atlantic Ocean. Historians often call this system Triangular Trade because ships connected several regions in a repeating pattern. Europe sent manufactured goods, such as cloth, metal tools, and guns, to African ports. Traders exchanged these goods for captive Africans, although the routes and cargoes did not always form one exact triangle.
- ② Many captive Africans were then forced onto ships and carried across the Atlantic in the Middle Passage. This brutal voyage was part of the transatlantic slave trade. In the West Indies and the British Colonies, enslaved people were forced to work on plantations and in other jobs. Their labor produced valuable crops, including sugar, tobacco, rice, and indigo, for sale.
- ③ Ships carried some plantation crops to Europe, where buyers, merchants, and governments earned money from the trade. Some goods also moved among the colonies and the West Indies. Triangular Trade was important because it linked economies on both sides of the Atlantic, increased wealth for many European merchants and plantation owners, and depended on the violent exploitation of enslaved Africans.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Name the four regions connected by Triangular Trade.

2 What goods did Europe send to African ports, and what did traders obtain in exchange?

3 How did the forced labor of enslaved people connect the West Indies and British Colonies to Europe?

4 Why was Triangular Trade important? Give one economic reason and one human reason.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences that trace a trade connection among Africa, Europe, the West Indies, and the British Colonies. Name what moved and explain one effect on people or economies.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline Africa, the West Indies, the British Colonies, and Europe. Then number the three sentences that explain the links from Europe to Africa, from Africa to the Americas, and from the Americas to Europe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name the four regions connected by Triangular Trade.	Africa, the West Indies, the British Colonies, and Europe.
2	What goods did Europe send to African ports, and what did traders obtain in exchange?	Europe sent manufactured goods, such as cloth, metal tools, and guns. Traders obtained captive Africans.
3	How did the forced labor of enslaved people connect the West Indies and British Colonies to Europe?	Enslaved people produced crops such as sugar, tobacco, rice, and indigo. Ships carried some of these plantation crops to Europe for sale.
4	Why was Triangular Trade important? Give one economic reason and one human reason.	It linked economies and increased wealth for many European merchants and plantation owners. It depended on the violent exploitation of enslaved Africans.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

European ships brought manufactured goods to African ports, where traders acquired captive people. Enslaved Africans were forced across the Atlantic to the West Indies and the British Colonies, where their labor produced sugar and tobacco. These crops were sold in Europe, making money for merchants and plantation owners while enslaved people suffered brutal exploitation.

Accept accurate wording that connects all four regions, identifies goods or people moving, and explains an economic or human effect. Students may name any crops listed in the passage.