Routes and Ripples

Trace how trade moved goods, people, and traditions.

5.C.2.3 "Explain the economic and cultural interactions resulting from the triangular trade routes, including the forced migration of Africans through the Transatlantic slave trade and experiences of the Middle Passage."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways people or goods moved between places, circle one harm caused by forced migration, and write 1 and 2 beside two effects on money, work, or culture.

More Than a Trade Route

1. Picture three ocean crossings linked by trade. In one route, European merchants carried cloth and metal goods to West Africa. Some African traders exchanged captives for these goods. Many captives had been taken during wars or raids. The merchants then forced enslaved Africans onto ships bound for the Americas. This trade brought goods to some people, but it tore families and communities apart.

2. The ocean crossing from Africa to the Americas was called the Middle Passage. Enslaved people were crowded below decks with little fresh air, food, or clean water. Many became sick, and many died. Some resisted their captors, even on the ships. In the Americas, enslaved Africans were forced to work on farms that grew sugar and tobacco. Ships carried these crops to Europe, where merchants sold them for profit.

3. As sugar reached more European shops, more buyers could purchase it. Plantation owners and merchants made money from crops produced by forced labor, while enslaved workers were denied freedom and wages. Africans brought knowledge of farming, cooking, and music to the Americas. They kept and changed traditions with their families and neighbors. These cultural exchanges shaped life in the Americas, even under slavery.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the exchange in West Africa lead to forced migration across the ocean?

2. How did conditions on the Middle Passage affect enslaved Africans?

3. How were the profits from sugar and tobacco connected to forced labor?

4. How did Africans shape culture in the Americas despite being enslaved?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a museum displays a sack labeled "Sugar." Write a four-sentence label that connects Europe, Africa, and the Americas, explains who gained money and how Africans shaped culture in the Americas, and includes a human cost of the trade.

ANSWER KEY

Routes and Ripples

GRADE 5 · 5.C.2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways people or goods moved between places, circle one harm caused by forced migration, and write 1 and 2 beside two effects on money, work, or culture. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the exchange in West Africa lead to forced migration across the ocean?	**Some African traders exchanged captives for European goods. European merchants then forced the captives onto ships bound for the Americas.**
2	How did conditions on the Middle Passage affect enslaved Africans?	**Crowded spaces and a lack of fresh air, food, and clean water made many people sick, and many died.**
3	How were the profits from sugar and tobacco connected to forced labor?	**Enslaved Africans were forced to grow the crops in the Americas. Merchants sold those crops in Europe for profit.**
4	How did Africans shape culture in the Americas despite being enslaved?	**They brought knowledge of farming, cooking, and music, and kept and changed traditions with their families and neighbors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

European merchants sent cloth and metal goods to West Africa, where some traders exchanged captives for them. Enslaved Africans endured the Middle Passage and were forced to grow sugar in the Americas. Ships brought sugar to Europe, where merchants sold it for profit. Africans also shaped farming, cooking, and music in the Americas, while forced migration tore families apart.

Accept other accurate examples from the passage. Responses should distinguish the profits gained by merchants and plantation owners from the harm done to enslaved Africans and their communities.