Historical Database Investigators

Name:

Date:

Volume and Direction of the Transatlantic Slave Trade from All African to All American Regions
Number of slaves
5,000,000
1,000,000
200,000

Using the map above, answer the following questions.

1. What is this map showing you? How did you come to this conclusion?

_____

_____

_____

2. Where are the four regions in Africa most enslaved people were being taken from? What two ways does the map show or tell you this?

_____

_____

3. Where in the Americas were most people taken? How does the map show you this?

_____

_____

Vocabulary Check
Define the following terms:

Intra-American:_____

Transatlantic:_____

Database:_____

Itinerary:_____

Embarkation:_____

Disembarkation:_____

Mortality Rate:_____

Rig:_____

Year Range	Mainland North America	Caribbean	Spanish Mainland Americas	Brazil	Africa	Other	Totals
1526-1550	0	0	82	0	0	0	82
1551-1575	0	0	249	0	0	0	249
1576-1600	0	0	470	0	0	0	470
1601-1625	36	85	7,703	0	0	0	7,824
1626-1650	196	249	3,080	0	0	0	3,525
1651-1675	320	40	19,102	58	0	0	19,520
1676-1700	641	2,065	16,959	0	0	138	19,803
1701-1725	5,604	6,127	20,925	0	18	402	33,076
1726-1750	10,175	13,764	42,129	0	0	4,416	70,484
1751-1775	21,137	40,535	9,454	0	21	1,563	72,710
1776-1800	11,507	102,568	35,267	10,305	70	128	159,845
1801-1825	5,359	47,848	22,326	0	0	47	75,580
1826-1850	1,218	327	214	0	0	0	1,759
Totals	56,193	213,608	177,960	10,363	109	6,694	464,927

The table above shows the number of enslaved Africans brought to each region in a series of 25 year periods between 1526 and 1850. Each row shows a 25 year period, each column shows a broad region of disembarkation, and each cell shows the total of embarked slaves. Answer the following questions regarding the table and its information.

1. How many enslaved people were taken to Spanish Mainland Americas in 1676-1700? _____

2. In what 25-year period were 102,568 enslaved people taken to the Caribbean? _____

3. What is the total number of enslaved people brought to Brazil from 1526-1850? _____

4. What is the total number of enslaved people brought to Mainland North America from 1526-1850?_____

5. How many more enslaved people were taken to the Caribbean than the Spanish Mainland Americas in 1776-1800?

   _____

6. In what 25-year period were the most people taken to Mainland North America?_____

7. Where is the region most people were taken to in the years 1651-1675?_____

Instructions:

For this activity, you will be working with a website called Slave Voyages. This website houses databases with information regarding individual slave ships and the journeys they made between Africa and the Americas (known as the transatlantic slave trade), as well as between ports in the Americas (known as the intra-American slave trade.) Information that can be found in these database includes, number of enslaved people on board, destinations of journeys, ship captains, the percentage of enslaved children on a ship, and much more. For this exercise, you will explore the different ways the database presents information to you, and draw conclusions related to this information.

Part I

1. **Go to https://slavevoyages.org/american/database.** This is the homepage for the intra-American slave trade database, which houses the information of more than 11,000 voyages that took enslaved people between different ports in the Americas as far South as Buenos Aires to ports as far North as Boston.

2. Next, look at the series of tabs at the top of the page. The items in purple will change the information in the table to display other pieces of information. The tabs in white will change the way the data is presented to you. **Click on the tab that says Timelapse.**

3. The timelapse playing shows the movement of slave ships between American ports from 1660 to 1840. Each dot represents a ship carrying enslaved people. The color of the dot indicates what country the ship is from. (Red = Great Britain, Light Blue = United States, etc.) You can click on the graph at the bottom of the timelapse to change the timeframe that is being animated. **Watch the entire timelapse from 1660 to 1840 and answer the questions below.**

4. **On a separate sheet of paper, take five minutes for a reflective free write.** As you put your thoughts on paper, think about the following questions: **How did it feel to watch this timelapse? What questions do you have after watching this?**

A. What color dot do you see most often, and what country does it represent?

_____

B. What Caribbean islands appear to be the most common origins of slave ships. (Remember, each dot represents one

slave ship) _____

C. What areas of the United States appear to be the most common destinations for enslaved people?

_____

D. What period of years appears to be the most active for the intra-American slave trade?

_____

E. Between 1776 and 1784 the intra-American slave trade seems to stop almost completely. Why do you think that

might be the case?_____

Part 2:

1. On the same tab bar as timelapse, **click timeline.** This will give you the view of different data points over time. The default timeline shows you the number of embarked slaves each year over the course of the entire slave trade.

2. **Click on the drop down menu and change the variable to "Number of Voyages."** This will now show the number of voyages each year.

    A. According to the timeline, what period of years had the highest amount of intra-American slave voyages?

    _____

    B.   Now think back to the timelapse from part I. Was your guess from question D correct? _____

    C. What was the precise decrease in slave voyages between 1774 and 1776? _____

    D. What is the precise increase in slave voyages between 1781 and 1784? _____

    E. What major event occurred between 1775 and 1781 that could have had an effect on slave voyages in the

    Americas? _____

3. **Click on the drop down menu again and change the variable to "Average percentage of slaves embarked who died during the voyage."** This will now show the average of enslaved people who were forcibly taken on a slave voyage to be sold, but died before they reached their destination.

    F. What years had the highest average percentage of deaths of enslaved people? _____

    G. Think about what you already know about the slave trade. Why do you think so many people died on the slave

    ships?

    _____

    _____

    H. Think back to the timeline showing the number of voyages. There were a large number of voyages taken in the late

    1700's but the average number of deaths dropped significantly. Why do you think this might

    be?_____

    _____

4. Now explore the other variables shown in the timeline. **Write down two variables you chose to look at below. As you explore these two variables, also write down any questions you have about the data, or any conclusions you drew from the timeline.**

    1:_____

    _____

    2:_____

    _____

Part III:

1. **Now click on the tab titled Tables.** The table normally shows the total number of enslaved people disembarking in broad regions of the Americas over several 25 year periods. For this exercise, we want to change the values to help us better understand the timelapse video.

2. In order to access just the information we need, we have to narrow down our data. To do this, on the purple colored tabs, **click on Itinerary and then place of purchase.**

    A. **Click on Place of Purchase. In the box titled "Principal Place of Slave Purchase," select "Caribbean" and then click apply.**

    B. Next, **Click on Place of Landing. In the box titled "Principal Place of Slave Landing," select**

        • **Mainland North America**

        • **Spanish Mainland Americas**

3. Now the website will only give us information about slave voyages originating in the Caribbean and ending in Spanish and British colonies on the American mainland. We still need to change the data on the table to get the information we are looking for. In order to do that:

    A. **Click on Row and select "Embarkation Regions"**

    B. **Click on Column and select "Specific Regions of Disembarkation"**

    C. **Click on Cell and select "Number of Voyages"**

4. Now our table will show us how many voyages started at certain Caribbean islands and ended in places in North and South America. For example, you can see that there are 63 voyages from Antigua, in the Caribbean, to New York, in mainland North America. It is a large table, so you will need to scroll from left to right in order to see all the specific regions of disembarkation. You will also need to view page two in order to see more regions of embarkation. **Using this table, answer the questions on the following page.**

1. Which three U.S. States received the highest number of slave voyages? Does this match with what you saw in the timelapse in part I?

_____

_____

2. Which two Caribbean islands saw the most embarkations of slave voyages to the North American mainland? Does this match with what you saw in the timelapse in part I?

_____

_____

3. What three Caribbean islands sent the highest amount of slave voyages to the Spanish American mainland?_____

_____

_____

4. Can you think of any reasons why these islands sent the highest number of slave voyages to the American mainland?

_____

_____

5. Which five pairs of Caribbean islands and U.S. States saw the highest number of voyages between them?_____

_____

___

6. Does the data suggest that slavery only occurred in the U.S. South? Support your answer with at least one example from the data.

_____

_____

_____

Part IV

For this part, you will reflect and prepare for a class discussion about what you've learned today. **On a separate sheet of paper, take 5 to 10 minutes for a silent free-write. Think about the following questions and write your thoughts down. When you are done, be prepared to share some of your thoughts with the class.**

- **What do you think about everything you've learned from this activity? Is there something that sticks out to you in particular?**

- **What are things you want to know more about?**

- **Does this activity prove that slavery was something that was only limited to the South?**

- **What might be some of the difficulties and hardships in completing the trip from Africa to the Caribbean, and then being forced back onto another ship?**

- **Why do you think it is important to learn about the slave trade even though it is a sad and difficult topic?**