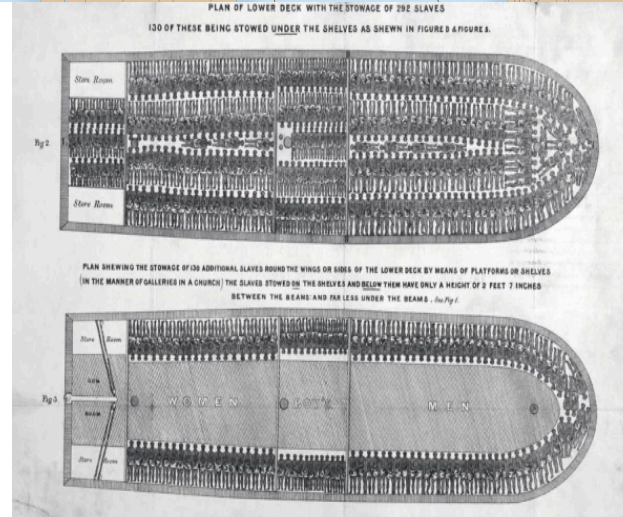


SSUSH2: DESCRIBE THE EARLY ENGLISH COLONIAL SOCIETY AND INVESTIGATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS GOVERNANCE



Element B: Describe the Middle Passage, the growth of the African population and their contributions, including but not limited to architecture, agriculture, and foodways

Growing Need for Colonial Labor



□ As tobacco farmers and other cash-crop farmers prospered in the colonies, they greatly expanded the size of their farms.

- Because of the resulting need for workers to plant, grow, and harvest the crops, farmers turned to African slaves to fulfill their growing labor needs.

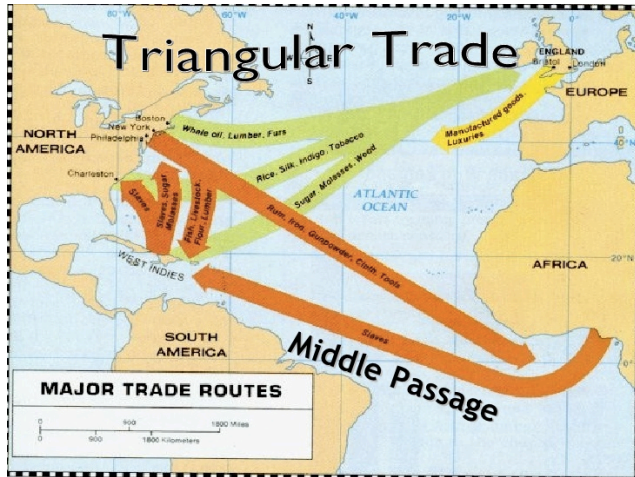


□ The first Africans arrived in Virginia in 1619. During the colonial period, approximately 250,000 Africans were imported to the colonies.

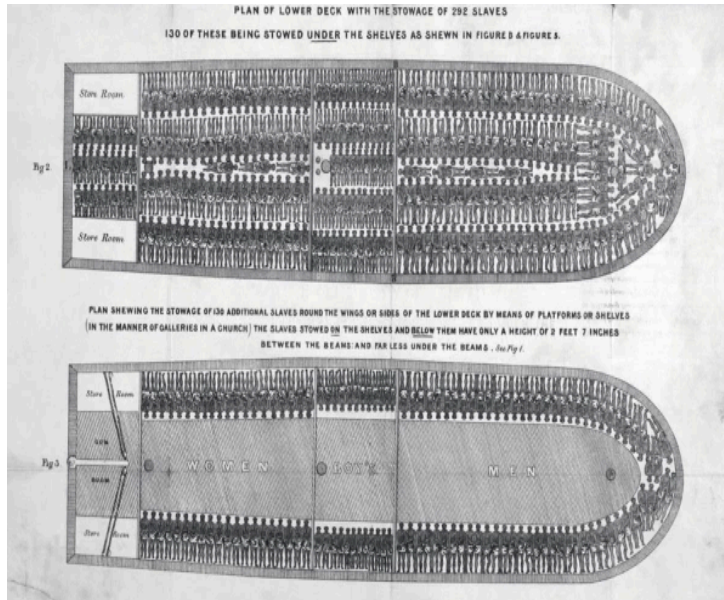


- The vast majority of these slaves were concentrated in the agriculturally intensive Southern Colonies, although all of the English colonies allowed and had slaves during the colonial period.

Middle Passage



- ❑ The African slaves who were forced to fill this labor role in the American colonies were brought to North America on crowded and dangerous slave ships along the Middle Passage portion of the trans-Atlantic trade routes.
- ❑ The slaves were originally captured through the African slave trade within the African continent and then brought to the West African coast for barter with European slavers.



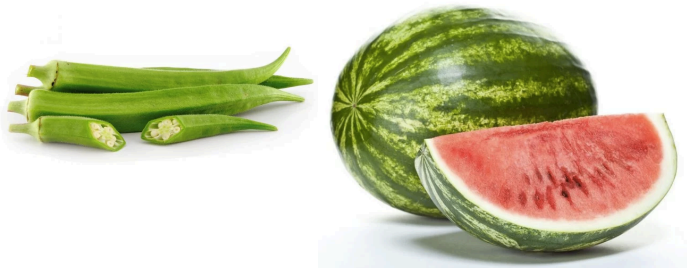
- Rum, cloth, weapons, and other manufactured goods from Europe were traded for Africans.
- Between three and four hundred slaves were packed into cargo holds of slave ships bound for North America.
 - Sickness, fear, and brutality was the common experience for slaves on the Middle Passage. About two of every ten slaves died during the Middle Passage.

African Culture

- ❑ There was no single African culture.
- ❑ People brought from west Africa as slaves represented a large number of different cultures.
- ❑ In an effort to control the slaves, slave owners attempted to strip away the cultural identity of their slaves and sought to replace it with the culture of the plantation or region to which the slave was brought.
 - However, the physical isolation of slaves from their masters led to the creation of a new blended culture rather than the replacement of one culture over another.
- ❑ What resulted was the creation of a unique African American or Black culture.



Foodways

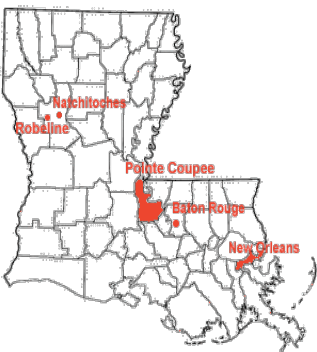


□ Foods, such as okra, watermelon, yams (sweet potatoes), rice, and even grits have been attributed to cultural blending of African and European cultures.



- Economically, coastal South Carolina and Georgia owed its prosperity to the introduction of rice that was propagated by West African and West Indian slaves.
 - Ironically, it was this same rice production that served as a food source for West Indian sugar plantations whose insatiable labor demands expanded slavery in the European colonies.

□ The practice of blending different African tribes on a single plantation led to the creation of blended language patterns such as Creole in Louisiana and Gullah in coastal Georgia and the Carolinas.



African Architecture

□ Architecture is another topic for which African influences can be detected in America's development.

- Slave labor often built the homes and buildings of their American masters.
- Over time, traces of Africanism found their way into the styles of buildings being constructed.
 - The “shotgun” style home has been traced to a dwelling style popular in Haiti and even further removed to a style of hut popular among the Yoruba people of western Africa.
 - A shotgun house is characterized as being very narrow and long with a front porch.
 - The simplistic style, with its entrance being on the short side of the home, is different from European styled homes.
 - The homes are one room wide and two to three rooms deep with only doors separating the rooms – no hallway.
- Archaeologists also suggest that some of the building materials used on Georgia plantations may have African roots.
 - The wattle and daub and tabby material used in early Georgia coastal construction is similar to the woven sticks covered in mud or clay technique of West Africa Ashanti homes.

