JOURNEY TO SLAVERY



0. JOURNEY TO SLAVERY - Story Preface

1. THE UNDERGROUND IS BORN

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4. SLAVE HOMES

5. SLAVES AT WORK

6. SLAVES ESCAPE

7. LANGUAGE OF THE UNDERGROUND

8. FAMOUS CONDUCTORS

This painting—by S. Hutchinson—depicts slave-trading in action. Currently maintained by the National Maritime Museum (in London, England), this watercolor - c. 1793 - is entitled "Slave Traffic."

After the collapse of the Roman Empire, systematic slavery was virtually non-existent until it was reintroduced as a source of labor for the "New World." The story of how African men, women and children were first captured, then shipped out as slaves for the colonial world, is appalling. Thanks to the Library of Congress, we can view surviving drawings and pictures of those disturbing times.

- People, kidnapped from their west African villages by white slavers and black traitors, were targeted for bondage overseas.
- After they were captured, soon-to-be slaves were marched from their homes to the African coast.
- Iron masks, collars, leg shackles and spurs restricted the movements of kidnapped people.
- Historians believe more than ten million Africans were captured and sent to the Americas as slaves.

What they endured aboard ship, as they sailed to the Americas, was no less horrific:

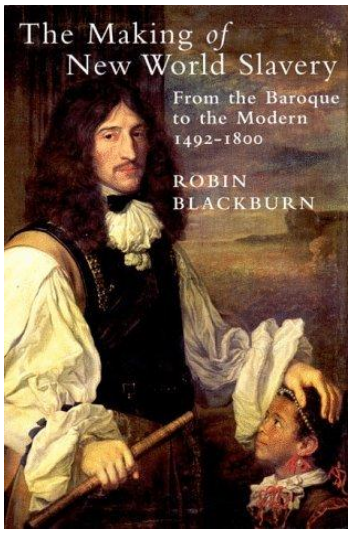
- Captured Africans, crammed into ships, suffered a difficult Atlantic crossing.
- Captain John Kimber, whip in hand, watched as a slave-ship sailor suspended a 15-year-old African girl by her ankle.

Arriving in an unfamiliar country, where people did not speak their language, captured Africans were bought and sold at auction. Such was expected in the world of chattel slavery.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/JOURNEY-TO-SLAVERY-Underground-Railroad

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/JOURNEY-TO-SLAVERY-Underground-Railroad

Media Stream



Making of New World Slavery - by Robin Blackburn
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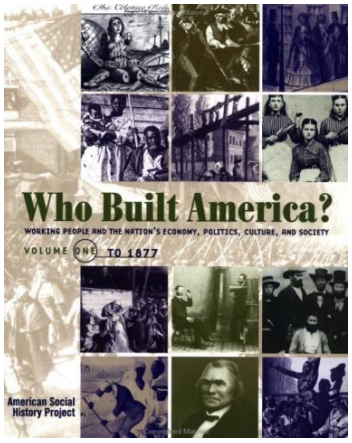

Who Built America?
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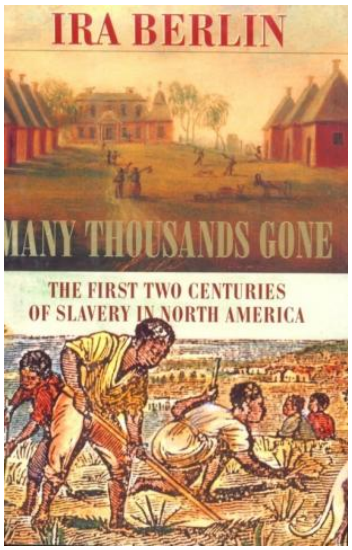

Many Thousand Gone - by Ira Berlin
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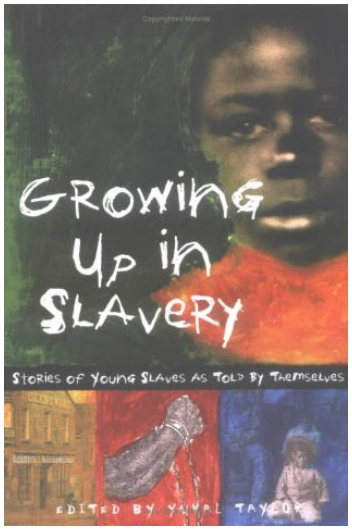

Growing Up in Slavery - Edited by Yuval Taylor
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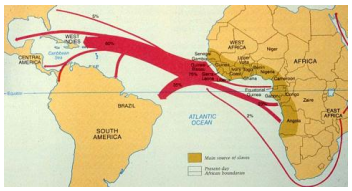

West African Villages - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy the Princeton University website.
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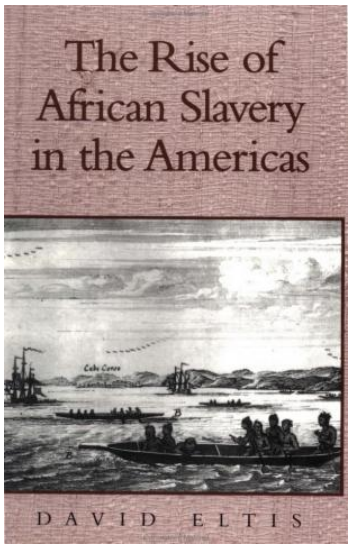

Rise of African Slavery in the Americas - by David Eltis

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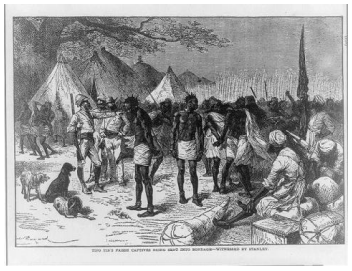

Bondage - Illustration

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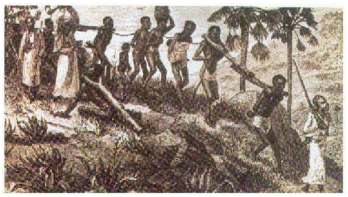

Captured for Slavery

Image online, courtesy Harvard College Library.
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Captives Marched to the Coast

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.
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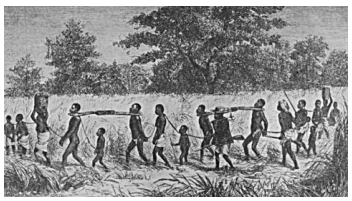

Captured People Marched to the Coast

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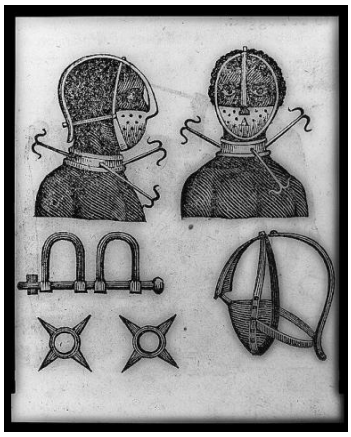

Iron Masks and Shakles

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Kidnapped People

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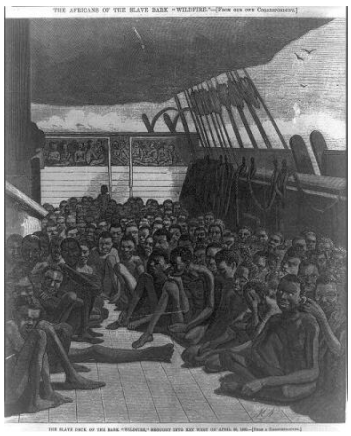

Slave Ship - Crossing the Atlantic

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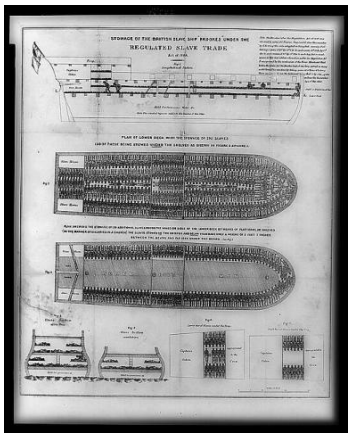

Slave Ship - Stowage

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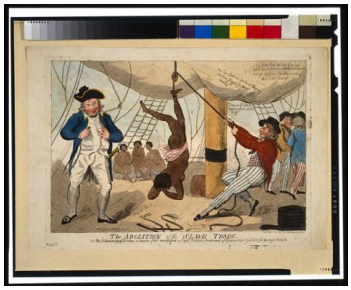

Slave Ships - Harsh Treatment Onboard

Library of Congress, image LC-USZ62-6204. Originally published in London, April 10, 1792.
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