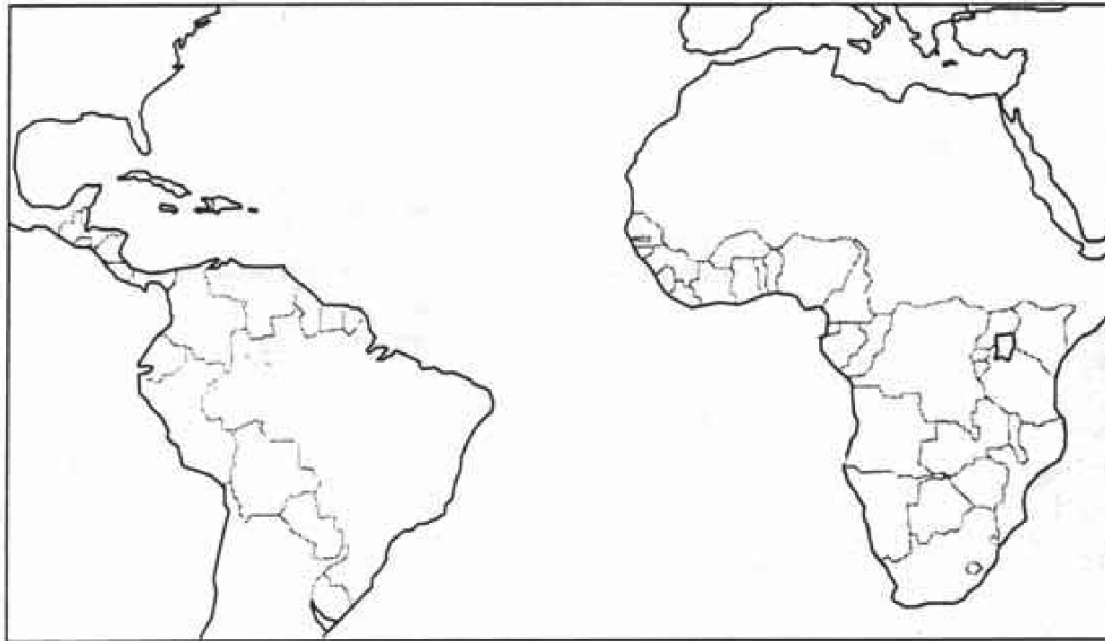


MAP EXERCISE

THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Between 1400 and 1800, European traders transported more than 10 million Africans to be slaves in the Americas. Thousands of Africans died on the long and tortuous “middle passage” across the Atlantic, but most survived to be enslaved in the British, French, Spanish, and Portuguese colonies. The majority were young men, destined to work on the sugar plantations of Latin America, but over a third of a million of them came to British North America, where they profoundly affected the colonies’ economic, political, and social development. The slave trade was originally dominated by the Portuguese, whose sway over the industry was challenged by both the Dutch and English in the sixteenth century.



MAPPING AMERICA

1. Label: North America, the West Indies, Brazil, New Spain, Africa, Madeira Island.
2. Label: Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal.
3. Draw light line boundaries to show the West African cultures of: Ashanti, Yoruba, Ibo, Mandinkae, Mossi, and Hausa.
4. Label: Sahara Desert; Gulf of Guinea; Niger River; Grain, Gold, and Slave Coasts.
5. Draw a bold line to show the ancient empire of Ghana.

READING THE MAP

1. What role did Madeira play in the slave trade? _____

2. Match the native African culture group to the modern African nation with which it generally corresponds:
 - a. Ibo – _____
 - b. Ashanti – _____
 - c. Yoruba – _____
 - d. Mandingo – _____
3. Match the European-defined African “coast” to the modern African nation in which it is located:
 - a. Grain Coast – _____
 - b. Ivory Coast – _____
 - c. Gold Coast – _____
 - d. Slave Coast – _____
4. The peak period for slave importation to British North America was _____.
5. By the eighteenth century, African Americans (mostly slaves) made up almost fifty percent of the population of the _____ in what is now the United States.

INTERPRETING THE MAP

1. Why might the Portuguese have dominated the early African slave trade?
2. What geographical reality helps explain why relatively few African slaves were taken to the mainland colonies of British America?
3. What fact helps explain why the Atlantic slave trade changed from a small trickle to a major population shift after 1600? What other reasons might have caused some of the ebbs and flows in the slave trade?
4. What effect may it have had that the slaves brought to the Americas came from such a vast region of West Africa? Discuss the differences and similarities in the environments the slaves left in Africa and found in the Americas.