

The Impact of the Slave trade in Africa

Describe the part played by Africans in organising the slave trade.

Explain how the slave trade effected African society and economic development



**What words do we think
of when we think of
Africa?**



What was Africa like before the slave trade?

When the first Europeans came into contact with Africa they found societies on the West Coast that were settled peaceful and well ordered. The Kingdoms of Yoruba and Benin had a highly developed culture and the city of Timbuktu was greatly admired by European visitors. In the interior of the continent most tribes lived by farming and herding animals. The peace was occasionally disrupted by inter-tribal wars but these were short lived and according to European observers they were mostly shows of strength and resulted in few actual deaths. Slavery existed but on a small scale – comparable to serfdom of the feudal system



At first Europeans traded with Africa for gold, silver, copper, ivory, palm oil and spices. This changed with the discovery and colonisation of America and the demand for workers this created. By the eighteenth century Europeans came to see Africa simply as a source of slaves and there was no shortage of greedy African rulers willing to capture and sell fellow Africans. The trade in slaves caused terrible suffering and Africa lost millions of its youngest and best people.



A lower population

The large numbers of Africans who were kidnapped significantly reduced Africa's population.

It is estimated that Africa's population would have been 50 million instead of 25 million in



Loss of fit workers



The bulk of Africans kidnapped to be slaves were young and (usually men).

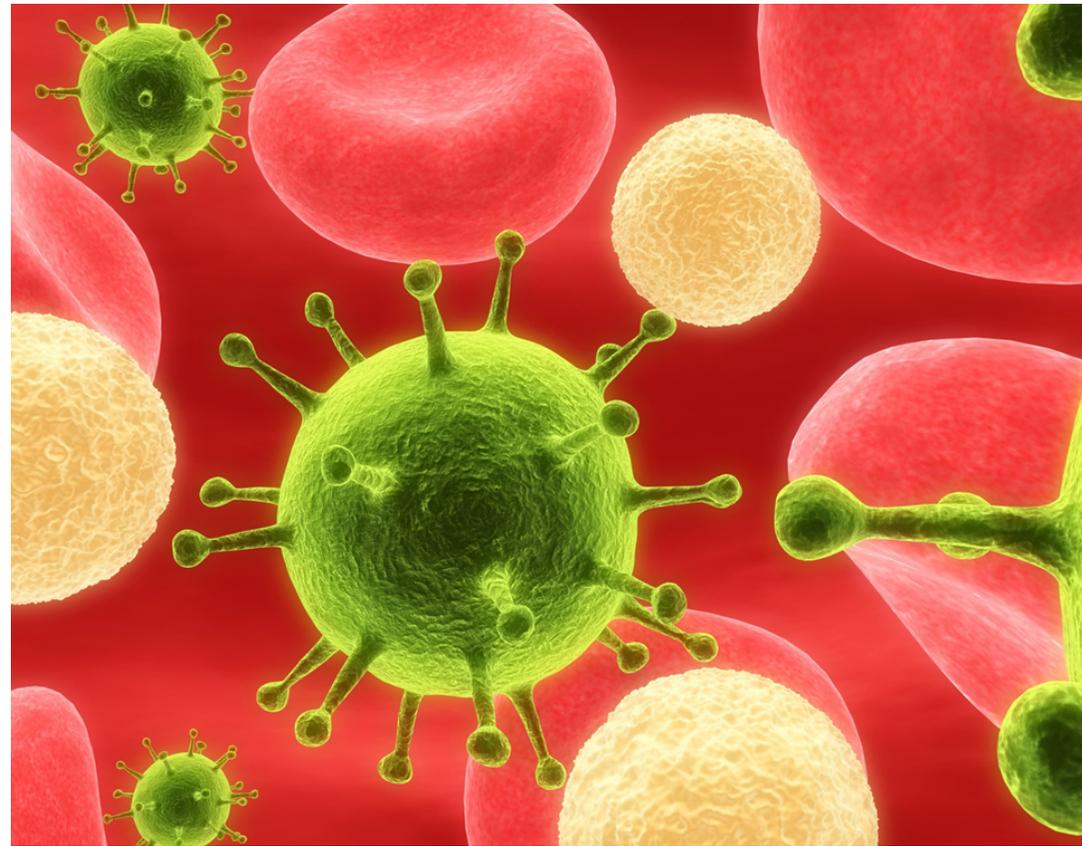
This left less people to work and grow crops in Africa, spreading poverty.

The African economy was effectively destroyed by this and the influx of cheap European goods

Poorer health

As Africans were moved across the continent, it meant that diseases spread too.

Also because there was less food due to young, fit workers being kidnapped, people were more likely to fall ill.



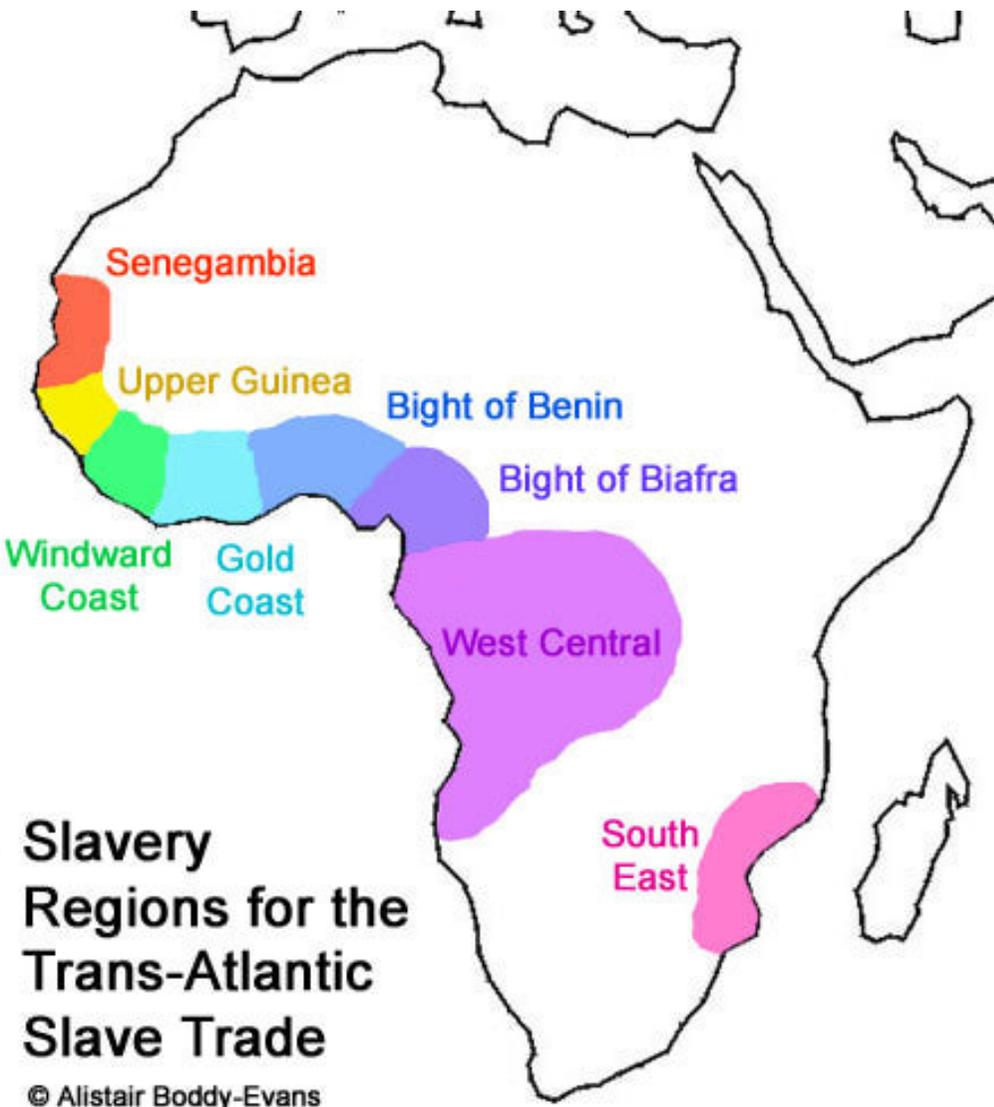
Violence and war

The fact that many slaves were prisoners of war led to more fights between different African tribes.

Many of these divisions and wars continue to haunt Africa today.



Where people lived



As the slave factories were found on the African coast, this led many Africans to move inland.

This also led to further wars and disputes over access to land and water supplies.

Wealth for some Africans

Some Africans greatly benefitted from the slave trade.

Many African kings and chiefs became very rich by selling slaves, and benefitted from access to goods such as guns.

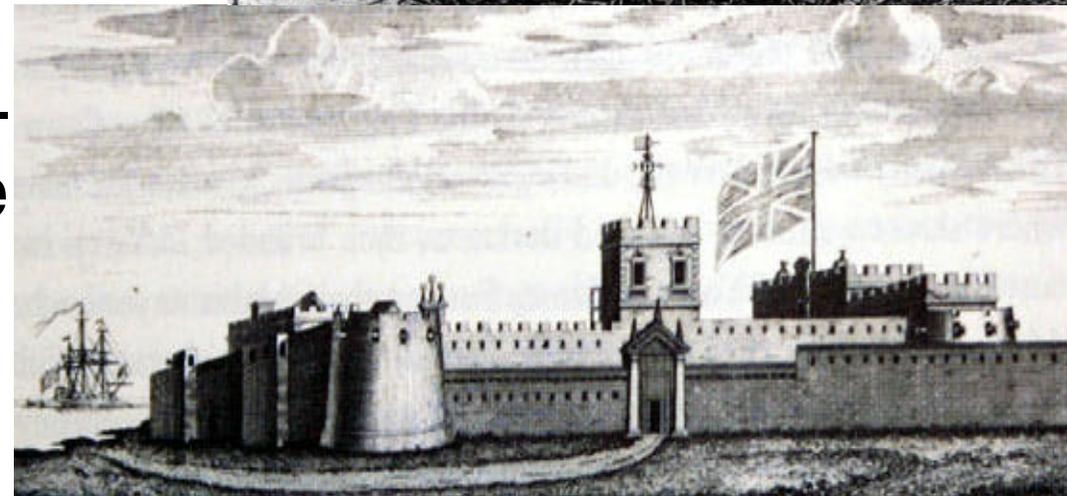
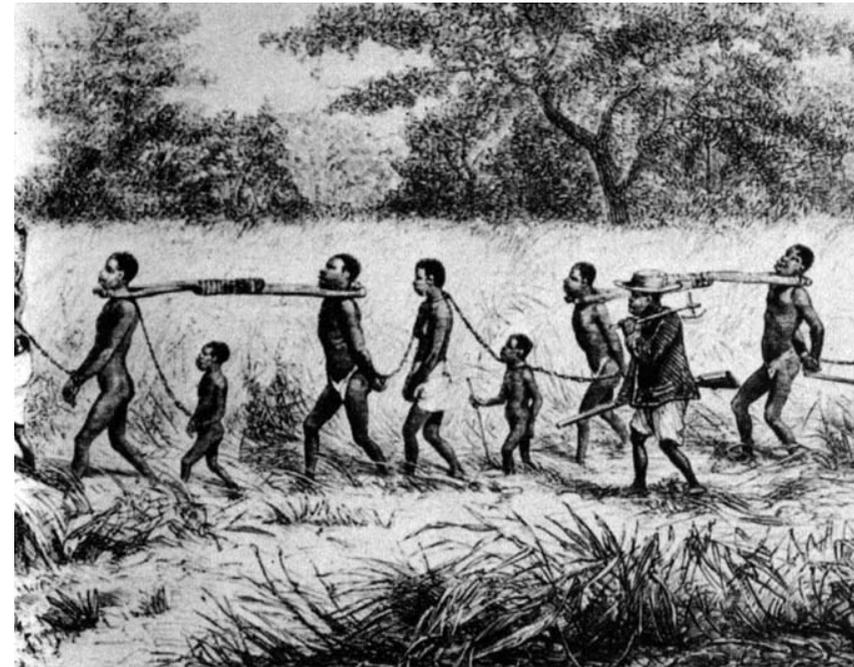


experience of a captured slave

aptured slaves were made to walk for days to the slave factories on the West African coast- they were often tied together to stop them running away. It is thought that 30% of captives died on the journey to the coast.

y were then taken to slave factories- fortified towers where they awaited the journey to the New World in horrible conditions.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVf4NZIMRrc



Racism

Racist ideology owes much of its origins to the slave trade. Europeans soon thought themselves superior to those who they treated like animals – this was a way for them to justify treating other human beings as property



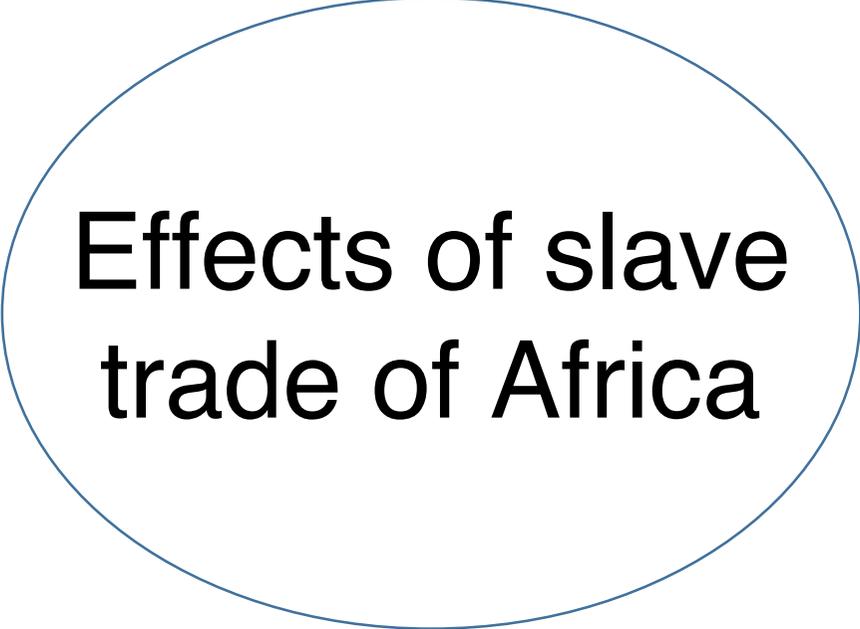


The seeds of modern day poverty in Africa are found in the slave trade.

Many of the farming and war problems in various African countries can be traced back to the Atlantic Slave Trade.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q_4

What can you remember?



Effects of slave
trade of Africa

Create your own primary source

- You are a slave recounting the story of your capture in Africa- write a primary source describing:
- Who were you in Africa
- How you were captured?
- Who sold you ?
- What was the journey from your home to the coast like?
- What happened when you got to the coast?

How fully does source A explain the reasons for the growth of the slave trade?

“The trade in sugar created a great demand for labour to work on plantations” This tells us that the growth of the sugar industry created jobs for people to farm the sugar cane

“People from Africa were brought to the West Indies” which explains that African people were taken as slaves to work on plantations due to them being able to work in the harsh conditions sugar cane grows in.

How fully does source A explain the reasons for the growth of the slave trade?

“The source does not say about poor working conditions... (**NOT ENOUGH**)

“There was very few of the natives (of the Caribbean) left to work on the plantations as lots of the died off” **much better!**

EVEN BETTER = “This created a labour demand for workers that could withstand the difficult work in tropical conditions and therefore a demand for African slaves.”

The source partly explains the reasons for the growth of the slave trade because it says “The trade in sugar created a great demand for labour to work in plantations” It also says “Sugar cane required many people to plant harvest and process the crop” it also says “Various solutions to the labour problem were tried but these had little success”. However the source does not mention that lots of natives died working on plantations that bond servants died working on plantations and that the voyage from Africa to the West Indies was long and dangerous