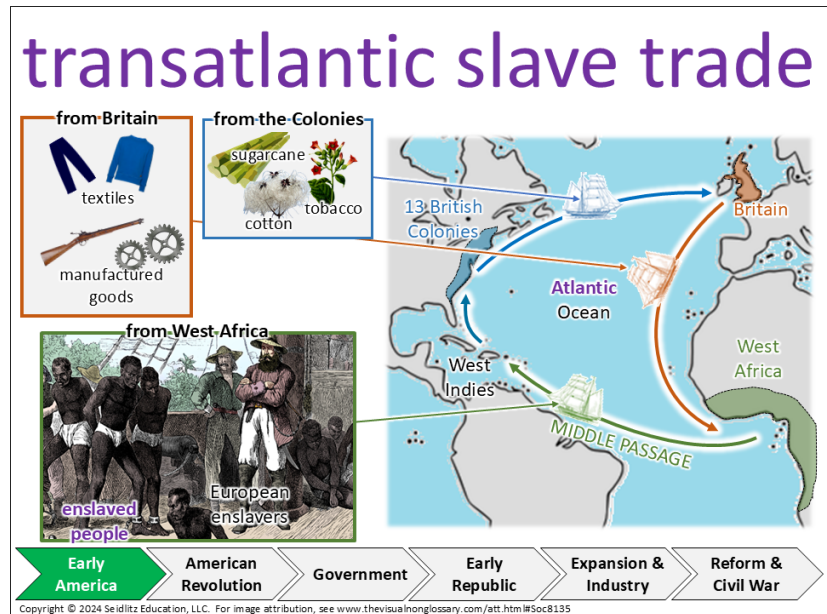


Ships, Slaves, and Plantations

The purpose for reading is to learn how the transatlantic slave trade helped build the plantation system and how it changed Africa, the colonies, and the Americas.

Pay Attention To:

- How the transatlantic slave trade worked
- The role of plantations in the colonies
- Who was involved in the trade
- How the system changed different regions
- The lasting impact of the trade on people and economies



A long time ago, the Portuguese started sailing along the coast of West Africa to trade. In the 1500s, they began sending **enslaved** Africans to the Americas. Spain and Portugal were the first to run the **transatlantic slave trade**, sending people to work on **plantations** in places like Brazil and the Caribbean.

Later, Britain and France joined the **transatlantic slave trade**. They sent ships to Africa, took **enslaved** people, and brought them to the **13 British colonies** and the West Indies. By the mid-1700s, Britain was sending the most **enslaved** people across the Atlantic.

In total, over 12 million Africans were forced to go to the Americas, and around 2 million were taken to British **colonies**.

These **enslaved** people worked on **plantations** where crops like sugar, cotton, and tobacco were grown. These crops were then sent to Europe to make money. The **transatlantic slave trade** helped **plantations** get the workers they needed. As the

plantations made more money, they needed even more **enslaved** people.

This system caused suffering for millions and left deep, painful effects on the history of Africa, the **colonies**, and the Americas.

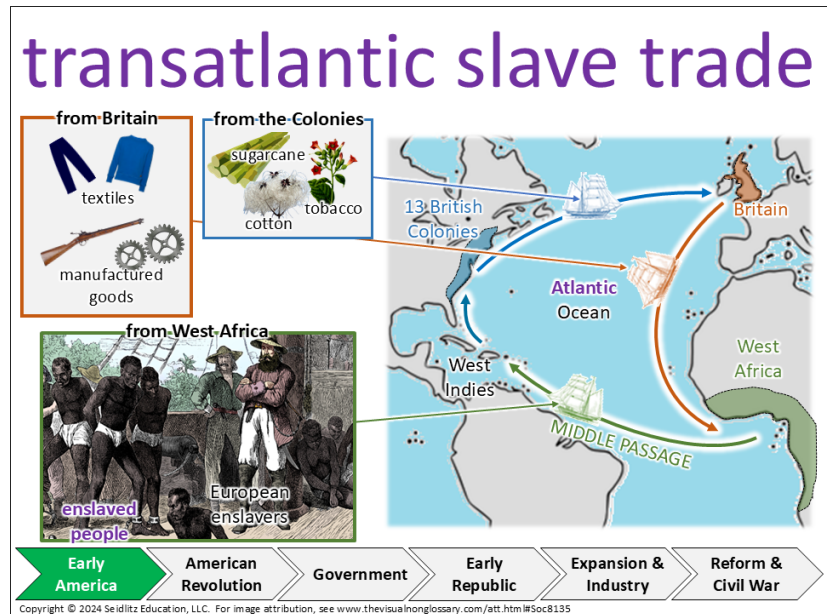


The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Plantation System

The purpose for reading is to learn how the transatlantic slave trade helped build the plantation system and how it changed Africa, the colonies, and the Americas.

Pay Attention To:

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- The role of plantations in the colonies
- Who was involved in the trade
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In the 1400s, the Portuguese began sailing along the coast of West Africa, establishing trade routes and building connections. By the early 1500s, they started transporting **enslaved** Africans across the Atlantic. The first major shipments arrived in the Americas in the 1520s, with Spain and Portugal dominating the early stages of the **transatlantic slave trade**. They sent **enslaved** Africans mainly to work on **plantations** in Brazil, the Caribbean, and Spanish America.

As European colonies in the Americas expanded, the demand for labor grew. In the 1600s and 1700s, Britain and France became major players in the **transatlantic slave trade**. They built ships, controlled ports, and established trade routes. By the mid-1700s, Britain had become the leading transporter of **enslaved** people in the Atlantic world. British traders exchanged manufactured goods for **enslaved** people in Africa, then transported them across the ocean to the **13 British colonies** and the West Indies.

Historians estimate that more than 12 million Africans were forcibly taken to the Americas through the **transatlantic slave trade**, and nearly 2 million of them were transported to areas controlled by Britain, including the **13 British colonies**.

Enslaved Africans were forced to work on **plantations**, large farms that produced crops like sugar, cotton, and tobacco. These goods were then shipped back to Europe for profit. The **transatlantic slave trade** supported the **plantation** system by supplying the labor needed to grow and harvest these crops. In return, the success of **plantations** increased the demand for more **enslaved** workers, making the trade even more widespread.

The connection between **plantations** and the **transatlantic slave trade** was at the heart of colonial economies. While European nations gained wealth, millions of Africans lost their freedom and lives. The impact of this trade system shaped the history of the **colonies**, Africa, and the Americas for centuries to come.

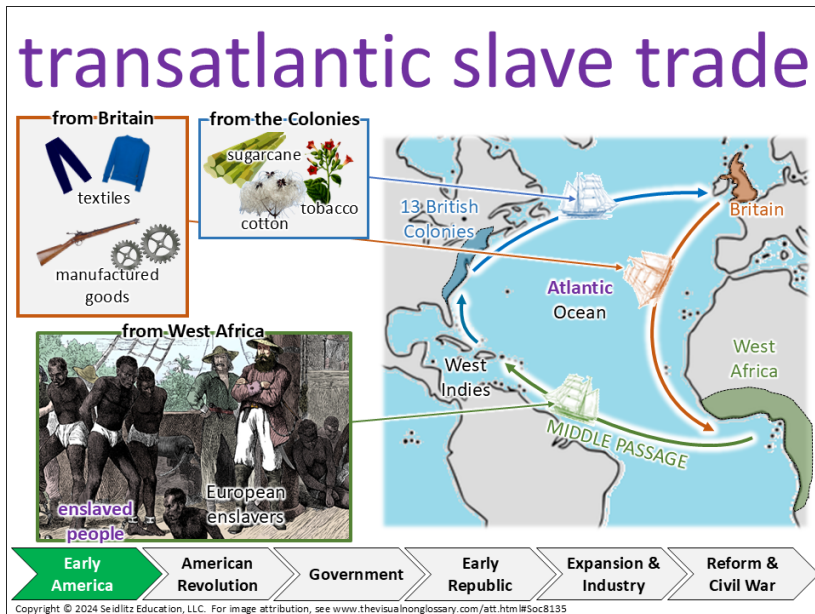


Economies Built on Slavery

The purpose for reading is to learn how the transatlantic slave trade helped build the plantation system and how it changed Africa, the colonies, and the Americas.

Pay Attention To:

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- The role of plantations in the colonies
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In the 15th century, Portuguese explorers began trading along the West African coast. By the 1520s, they were transporting **enslaved** Africans to the Americas. Spain and Portugal led the early **transatlantic slave trade**, supplying **enslaved** laborers to work on **plantations** in regions like Brazil, Spanish America, and the Caribbean.

By the 17th century, Britain and France became major participants. They expanded the **transatlantic slave trade** using advanced shipping networks and colonial ports. By the mid-1700s, Britain had become the leading transporter of **enslaved** Africans to the Americas, particularly to the **13 British colonies** and the West Indies.

Historians estimate that more than 12 million Africans were forced across the Atlantic, with nearly 2 million ending up in British **colonies**.

The **enslaved** were compelled to work on **plantations**, where they produced sugar, tobacco, and cotton—goods that enriched European economies. These profits fueled further investment in the trade. The **transatlantic slave trade** and **plantation** system became tightly linked: one depended on the other to expand.

This trade not only transformed the economies of Europe and the **colonies**, but also devastated African communities and defined the social and political foundations of the Atlantic world.

