

Colonial Economies: Triangular Trade Route Simulation

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will trace the routes and goods of the Triangular Trade and explain its economic and human impact.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- map showing the Atlantic Ocean, North America, Europe, and Africa
- string or yarn
- colored markers
- index cards
- ruler

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. On a map, mark 3 points: a colonial port (such as Boston), a European port (such as Liverpool), and a West African port.
2. Use string or drawn arrows to connect the 3 points into a triangle, labeling each leg of the route.
3. On index cards, write the goods traded along each leg (manufactured goods to Africa; enslaved people to the Americas; raw materials and cash crops to Europe) and tape each card near its route leg.
4. Calculate an approximate straight-line distance for one leg of the route using your map's scale and a ruler or string measurement.
5. Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) explaining the human cost of the Middle Passage leg specifically, using at least one specific fact from your research.

QUESTIONS

1. What were the 3 legs of the Triangular Trade, and what was typically traded on each?
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2. What was the 'Middle Passage'?
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3. Which leg of the route did you measure, and approximately how far was it?

4. How did the Triangular Trade connect the economies of Africa, Europe, and the Americas?
