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History

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Life of Struggle Across the Ocean

Between the years 1600 - 1800, Africans were captured from their home land and traded to become slaves in America. The British traded things like iron, brandy, gunpowder, weapons, and rum, in return of Africans to use as slaves. They didn't know where they were going, but they were forced to go onto a ship. The ship was taking the Africans from Africa to America to become slaves, this journey was called the "Middle Passage". During the 1700s, the British slave traders were transported approximately 2.5 million of the 6 million African slaves out of Africa. The Middle passage was torturous for Africans. One crew of about thirty people could pack about four hundred Africans into each ship. The living conditions in the ship were brutal. They were restrained with shackles by their hands and feet. The slaves had minimal space, there was only about five feet of head space. The Africans were all jammed in together. On top of that, there was little, to barely any ventilation in under the deck where the slaves were kept. The slaves were tortured being on the ship and wanted to die, but the crews forced the slaves to eat because they wanted to get more money selling the Africans to landowners. The Middle Passage took about four weeks or more. In those four weeks about 10-20 % of the slaves died. The middle Passage lasted for about four hundred years. The first slaves to come to America by the Middle Passage, came to Virginia in 1619. Slavery didn't become popular until the south region of the thirteen colonies were established, and landowners started coming in. The Middle Passage is what started slavery in America. It will always be remembered as the journey to slavery.