Ships of Slave: The Middle Passage

**Directions:** Watch the video concerning the Middle Passage, then answer the questions provided below.

1. What were some of the reasons why people were enslaved across the ancient world?

2. What did the term “middle passage” refer to?

3. What was life like for Africans prior to the entrance of Europeans?

4. How did most Europeans convince themselves that Africans belonged enslaved?

5. What role did African leaders play in the sale of their own African people?

6. In what ways could people be captured and thrown into slavery?

7. What was the psychological and cultural impact of slavery on the African people?

8. What was the Royal African Company? What was its role in the slave trade?

9. After capture, how were slaves forced to make their way to the European ships from the interior of Africa?

10. What were slave castles? Why were they known as the “points of no return?”

11. How were the Europeans so successful in capturing and enslaving the Africans from the interior locations?

12. What is the estimated amount of slaves that started the journey across the Atlantic to the new world?

13. How many weeks did it take the slave ships to make it from Africa to the New World?
14. Describe the conditions in the “slave packer” portions of the slave ships?

15. What were some of the names of the slave ships carrying the African “cargo” to the New World?

16. How was insurance a new money maker in the event of a slave’s death?

17. How did Africans cope with the reality that they had been captured and their fate was unknown?

18. Why were Africans prohibited from expressing their African culture after being captured?

19. What forms of resistance did Africans show in rejection of their capture from their homeland to their sale in the New World?

20. How did White Americans help to come to the defense of African slaves? Share one example from the video.