**Exit Ticket Name:**

**Date: Block:**

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| **In its economic relationship with its American colonies, Spain followed the principles of 18th-century mercantilism by** (a) outlawing the African slave trade (b) limiting the colonies’ trade with other nations (c) encouraging the development of manufacturing in the colonies (d) establishing laws against religion | **Which statement about the European colonial policy of mercantilism is most accurate?** (a) Raw materials from the colonies were shipped to England. (b) England encouraged the colonies to seek independence. (c) The colonies were required to send manufactured goods to Europe. (d) The British opposed the use of slave labor in the colonies. | **Europeans considered mercantilism a successful policy because it** (a) led to the trans-Saharan trade route (b) led to alliances with Asian countries (c) helped spread Christianity (d) created wealth for the colonial powers |

**A Voyage to Slavery Reading**

**Directions:**

1. **READ the introduction and the story**
2. **ANNOTATE while you read the introduction AND the story (circle unknown words, underline important phrases, “talk back” by writing your thoughts)**
3. **ANSWER the questions at the end of the reading.**

Talk Back Below!

Slavery occurred in the ancient world. The Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and African empires all held slaves. During the European Middle Ages, white Christians were enslaved by other Europeans. These slaves were prisoners of war, criminals, or debtors.

In ancient times, slaves were often protected by law and custom. In some countries, slaves would be freed after a number of years of faithful service. In Africa before the Europeans arrived, slaves were not looked upon as property. They were working members of a tribe, but their standing was lower than that of free men and women. Slaves could advance through work, and the children of slaves were not slaves.

When Europeans became involved in the African slave trade, conditions changed completely. It all began in 1442, when ten Africans were brought to Prince Henry of Portugal. In 1510, Spain approved the shipment of African slaves to its American colonies. European colonists needed cheap labor to work in the mines and fields of the Americas. Disease and mistreatment took a toll on the Native American population, which dropped by more than 90% - from an estimated 50 million to only 4 million. A priest named Bartomole de Las Casas wanted to protect the Native Americans. However, he recommended replacing them as laborers with Africans, who he believed were more accustomed to hard work and farming.

Europeans took raw materials such as sugar and tobacco from the Americas. They then sold manufactured goods such as guns and textiles to Africans in return for slaves. The Africans were taken from their homes in chains and forcibly packed into rotting, leaking slave ships. The trip from Africa to the Americas in this “triangular trade” was known as the “Middle Passage.” The slave traders sold the survivors of the terrible voyages across the Atlantic to the Americas for big profits.

Gustavus Vassa was born in West Africa in 1745. When he was 11 years old, he was forced aboard a slave ship and taken to the West Indies (Caribbean). Many years later, he tells the story of his capture and the voyage to the Americas.

**I was 11 years old when I was taken from my home by African slavers. I was tied up, beaten, and forced to march many miles with dozens of others captives to the seacoast. There was a broken-down, filthy ship tied at the dock. I was so terrified I couldn’t walk. They tossed me around to check my strength and health. This, I thought, is the end. They are going to kill me!**

**I cried, but they paid no attention. Before long, they threw me below deck. Everyone was sobbing. The smells were unbearable. Two white men offered me some food, but I was too frightened and sick to eat. They would not accept my refusal. One tied my feet, while the other beat me countless times with a huge stick. This time, I was sure that they would kill me.**

**When I awoke, I talked to some of the men near me. Each one was chained so that he could scarcely move. “What’s to become of us? Where are we going?” I asked. One replied,” “We are being taken far away, to the white man’s country to work for them.” Somehow, I felt relieved. Perhaps they wouldn’t kill me because they needed my labor.**

**There were too many people in the hold. Cargo filled every available inch of space not occupied by a human. The heat was unbearable; I couldn’t breathe. All I heard were the shrieks of the women and the groans of the sick and dying. Finally, I was so sick that they let me stay on deck.**

**Two Africans jumped overboard. Another soon followed. They preferred death to a life of pain. Many more tried to follow, but the sailors held them back. Others set out in the rowboat to pick up the three jumpers. Sadly, two had drowned, but the third was “rescued,” thrown on deck, and beaten almost to death.**

**I and all the others aboard the ship lived through many more days of this torture until we landed in Barbados. Fortunately for me, I was then shipped to Virginia, where I was sold to an English sea captain named Michael Henry Pascal. Captain Pascal taught me a great deal about the merchant shipping business. I spent most of my time working on ships in the West Indies, taught myself to read and write, and became a Christian.**

**But that wasn’t all. I was paid for my services and bought and sold many goods. Over the years, I earned enough money to buy my freedom. I became a free man! I lived well, and prospered. I also worked to improve the conditions of those still held in bondage. But what of all the others who sailed with me on that miserable slave ship? I never saw one of them again. Would they have been better off dying at sea?**

The trans-Atlantic slave trade continued for 400 years and devastated societies in Africa, particularly in the West. Historians have estimated that about 15 to 20 million Africans were shipped to the Americas against their will. The human cost of the slave trade was enormous. Countless people died marching from the interior to the coast or crammed aboard slave ships. Slavery deprived millions of people their freedom and doomed their descendents to lives of forced servitude.

In Africa, the effects of the slave trade were profound. When the African chiefs became involved with Europeans, they had no idea what effect it would have on their countries. Many of the strongest young people – future leaders of their societies – were captured. The slave trade also divided Africans from one another. Meanwhile, the labor and knowledge of slaves helped build the economies of the Americas.

**Understanding the Story: Write T for each statement that is TRUE, F for each statement that is FALSE, N for each statement that is NOT mentioned.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Slavery began in North America.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Gustavus Vassa came from a large family.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ European colonists needed cheap labor in the Americas.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Conditions were better on some slave ships than others.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ There were too few people on the slave ship’s hold.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ None of the Africans attempted to escape.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The slave trade divided Africans from one another.

**Questions for Review: Please answer ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER**

1. How did conditions in the slave trade change when Europeans became involved?
2. Why did the Europeans stop using Native Americans as slave labor?
3. Describe the three parts/trips of the triangular trade. Which trip was the Middle Passage?
4. How was Gustavus Vassa treated aboard the slave ship?
5. What effect did the slave trade have on the Americas? On Africa?
6. What would you ask Gustavus Vassa if you had the chance?
7. The United States Constitution forbids cruel and unusual punishment. Why do you think was slavery permitted or justified?