

0. THE SLAVE TRADE - Story Preface

1. THE SLAVE TRADE

2. THE AMISTAD MUTINY

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7. FREEDOM!

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The "triangle trade" included the "Middle Passage," during which kidnapped Africans were herded onto overcrowded ships bound for Caribbean islands and North America. Many kidnapped people died during the horrific journey. Map depicting the Triangle Trade, online courtesy Gettysburg College. PD

Portuguese slave hunters (called "slavers") illegally wrenched Sengbe and his fellow captives from their homes in February, 1839. It was an all-too-common occurrence, even after the British Parliament outlawed the slave trade in 1807.

Using inhuman devices to control their victims, slavers violated all existing treaties and laws. The practice continued due to demand for cheap labor in the "New World."

During the difficult journey from Africa to Cuba - called "The Middle Passage" - many of the captured people died. Fifty-three Africans (of Mandingo, Gbandi, Vai, Lorma, Kissi and Mendi heritage) were transferred to *La Amistad*, a ship chartered by two Spaniards who had "purchased" the captives at auction in Havana.

Four children were among the Amistad Africans.

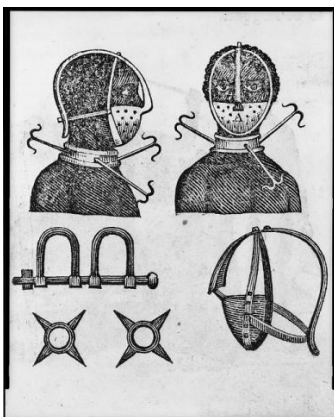
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Media Stream

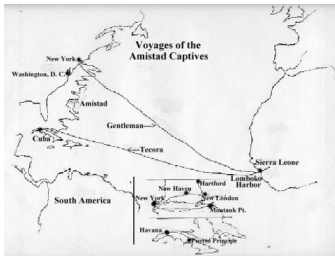


Instruments of Torture - Slave Control Devices

Image online, U.S. National Archives.

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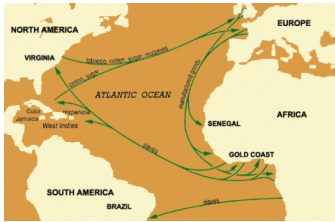


Amistad Voyages - Routes of Travel for Amistad Captives

Image online via University of Missouri at Kansas City. PD

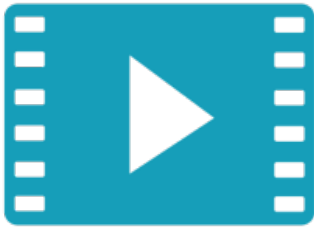
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THE SLAVE TRADE

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Amistad Captives - Sold at Auction

From *Amistad* (1997), written by David Franzoni, directed by Steven Spielberg and released by Dreamworks. Copyright, Dreamworks, all rights reserved. Provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the film.

The film features Djimon Hounsou (Cinque), Morgan Freeman (Theodore Joadson), Anthony Hopkins (John Quincy Adams) and Matthew McConaughey (Baldwin). Cinematography by Janusz Kaminski.

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