



0. PASSAGE TO THE NEW WORLD - Story Preface

1. SLAVES IN THE NEW WORLD

2. KIDNAPPED AFRICANS

3. PASSAGE TO THE NEW WORLD

4. FREEDOM - BUT NOT FOR SLAVES

5. POWERS OF THE MIND

6. REBELLION

7. ESCAPE

8. TRIPS ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

9. TRICKS AND DETERMINATION

10. FUGITIVE SLAVE LAWS

11. PUNISHMENT for HELPING RUNAWAYS

12. FORMER SLAVES BECOME ABOLITIONISTS

13. BUYING AND SELLING PEOPLE

14. A TERRIBLE TIME

15. PLANTATION LIFE

16. SPLIT-UP FAMILIES

17. LAST FREE LABOR

18. WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

19. HUMAN SPIRIT PREVAILS

A compilation of images, from 1764, illustrates what Africans endured at the hands of slavers. "Marche D'esclaves" means "slave market," and this is plate XI from *Le Commerce de l'Amerique par Marseille* by M. Chambon. See the link, at the top right of this chapter's Media Stream, to learn [more about the specific images](#).

Many historians have described what it *must* have been like for kidnapped Africans to sail across the Atlantic. Olaudah Equiano tells us what it *was* like:

- Children were kidnapped from their homes, often when their parents were not there. A similar event happened to Olaudah and his sister. He was eleven years old.
- At some point, before he sailed, Equiano was separated from his sister. It was a frightening event for both of them.
- The first time the young lad set eyes on a slave ship, he was terrified.
- He thought he was brought on board to be eaten by the white men:

When I looked round the ship too and saw a large furnace of copper boiling, and a multitude of black people of every description chained together, every one of their countenances expressing dejection and sorrow, I no longer doubted my fate and quite overpowered with horror and anguish, I fell motionless on the deck and fainted...I asked if we were not to be eaten by those white men with horrible looks, red faces and long hair?

- Since he did not live on the African coast, and had never seen a ship, Equiano thought sailing happened by

magic.

- Conditions on board ship were so bad he would have jumped overboard had he been able.
- Equiano learned he would be taken far away to work for the white men in their country.
- During the crossing, the stench below deck, nearly unbearable on the coast, became "pestilential."
- Many of the kidnapped Africans thought death was preferable to living on a slave ship.
- Some of the captives jumped into the water, committing suicide. More would have followed had the crew not stopped them.
- Equiano's ship arrived in Barbados.
- He, and the other captured Africans, were sold as slaves on the Caribbean island.

Olaudah Equiano spent many years at sea as the slave of a naval man. Although he became a freeman in 1766, for the sum of 40 pounds sterling, he never saw his parents or sister again.

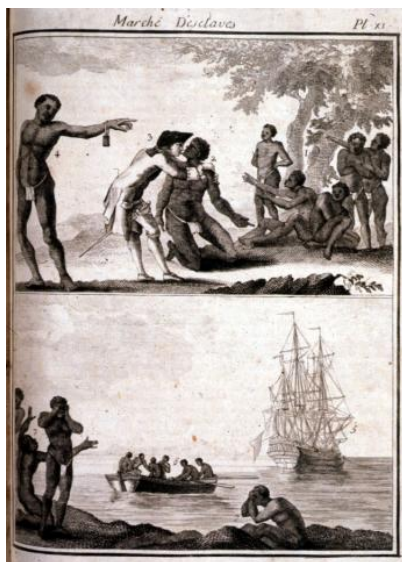
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PASSAGE-TO-THE-NEW-WORLD-Slave-Voices>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PASSAGE-TO-THE-NEW-WORLD-Slave-Voices>

Media Stream



PASSAGE TO THE NEW WORLD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>