

4-2.3 How did Africans change the culture and economy of North America?

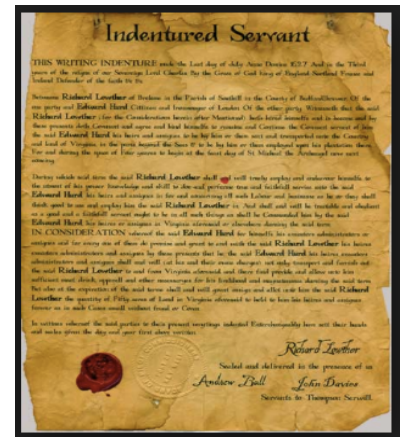
The Introduction of Slavery

Slavery was introduced into North America because as large farms and plantations were established in the English colonies, the landowners needed **workers** to help to **plant** and **harvest cash crops**. At first they tried to **enslave the Native Americans**. However, this created tension between the colonists and the Native Americans. The Native Americans also knew the land so well they were able to easily **escape**.



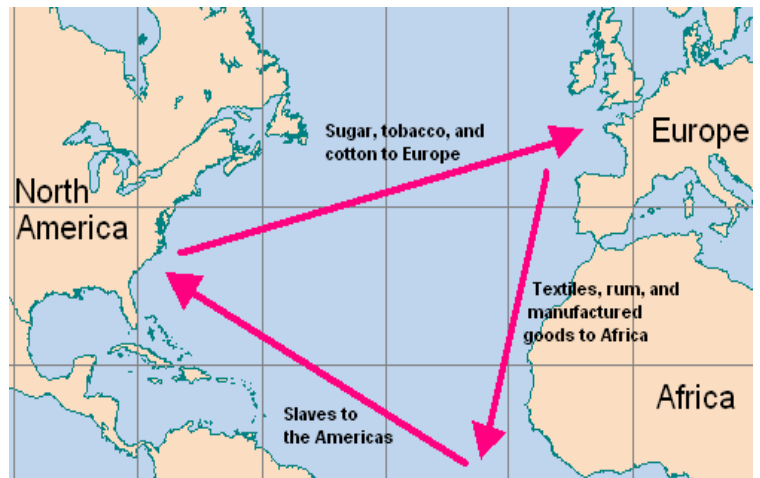
Indentured Servants

Indentured servants were brought from **England** and had a significant impact on the colonies. They came to the new world because colonists continued to need **workers** to help in **planting** and **harvesting cash crops**, such as tobacco and rice. **Poor people** from **England** came to the colonies for a couple of reasons. Some people had been **displaced** from their land in England and **needed work**, or others wanted a **better** or **changed life** in a different place. The colonists and indentured servants signed a **contract** in which they agreed that the **servant would work** for the land owners for a **certain amount of years** in exchange for **food, clothing, shelter**, and most importantly passage to the **New World**. The landowners were able to secure more land because they **paid the passage** of the indentured servants. Often the landowner **didn't live up to the contract** and **abused** and **mistreated** the indentured servant. The indentured servants hoped that once their time of indenture was over, they would have the opportunity to **own their own land**. Once they were free, many moved to the **backcountry** of the colonies in order to **claim their land**. When the number of potential indentured servants was no longer enough to fill the need for fieldworkers, colonists turned to using **slave labor** from **Africa**.



Triangular Trade

Slaves were brought to **North America** through **triangular trade**. Trade routes followed patterns depending on the **demand** of **exporting** and **importing goods**. The routes were taken between **North American colonies, Europe, Africa, and West Indies**. For example, on one route **sugar** was purchased in the **West Indies** and transported to **New England** to be made into **rum**. The rum was then shipped to **Africa** to be **exchanged for slaves**. The **slaves** were then taken to the **West Indies** and **sold** or **exchanged** for **sugar cane**. The **sugar** was taken back to **New England** to produce more **rum** and the cycle continued. **Cash crops** grown in the English colonies like **rice, tobacco, and indigo**, were sold in **Europe** in exchange for **manufactured goods** that could not be produced in the colonies. This was known as **mercantilism** – the belief in the benefits of profitable trading.



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The Middle Passage

The part of the **slave's journey** aboard the **ship** between **Africa** and **North America** is known as the **Middle Passage**. Africans were **kidnapped** by other tribes in **Africa** and were marched from their homes in the interior of Africa to the coast of **West Africa**. There, they boarded the **slave ships** where they were **traded** or **sold** to



the ship's captain. The ship's captain then held them there until they could **fill the cargo hold** of the ship. If they even survived this part of the journey, then they had to endure the most horrible part - the **Middle Passage**. The Middle Passage refers to the **inhumane conditions** aboard the ships. Since the **slave trade** was conducted for **profit**, the ship captains of the slave ships tried to deliver a **maximum number of slaves** for **minimum cost**. Africans were **imprisoned as cargo** in a tight, dark and dirty space below the ship's deck. They received **little food** and **exercise** while aboard the slave ship. Many slaves **did not survive** the Middle Passage.

African Culture in the Colonies

African slaves were brought to **North America** because landowners needed **fieldworkers** for their farms and plantations. The **slaves** that survived the **Middle Passage** were brought in mainly through the port in **Charleston**, South Carolina. The slaves' hard work had a profound impact on the **economy** and the **culture** of the colonies. **Africans** brought with them their own **culture, skills, and languages**, such as the **Gullah** culture. **Africans** were **knowledgeable** about **raising livestock** and **farming techniques** needed to cultivate rice in the colonies. This made the **rice plantations** of South Carolina **profitable**. Without **African skills and labor**, the **economy** of the Southern colonies would not have developed these **cash crops**.

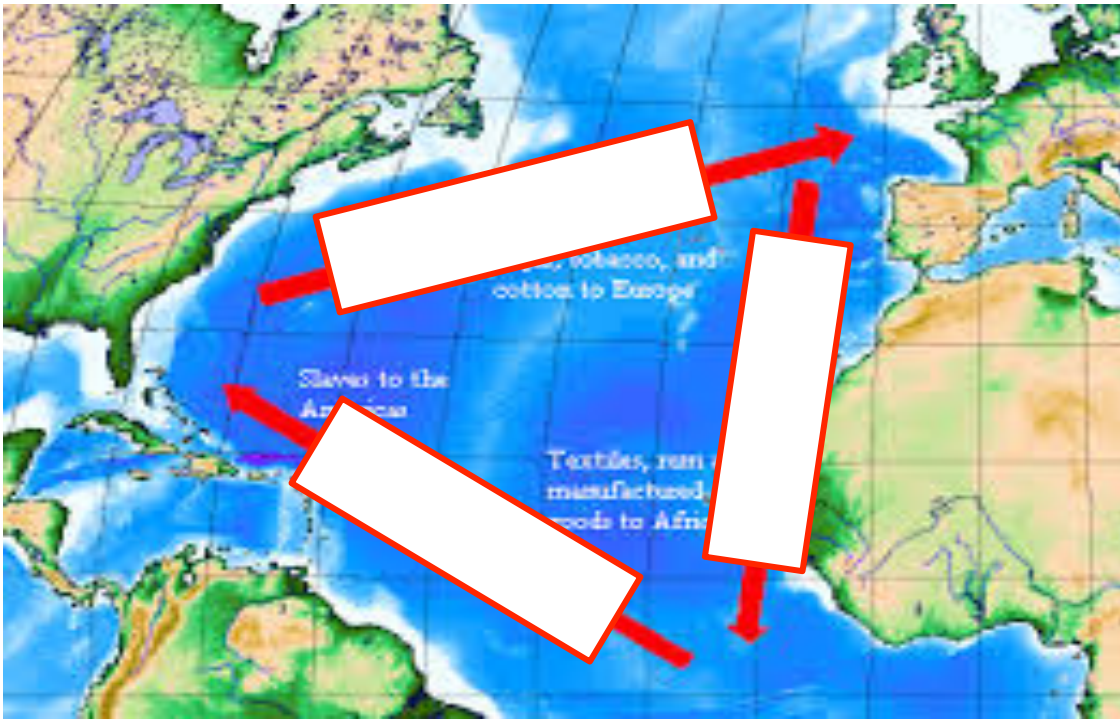


Africans also impacted the **cooking styles** of the **southern colonies**, and later the United States. **Slaves** often prepared meals for themselves and the slave owners. They introduced more variety in preparation than stewing and spit-roasting. They added **greens** and other **vegetables** to the plantation owners' meats and starch diets, thus **improving the health** of slave owners and colonists. Since **Africans** came from different tribal groups and **spoke no English** when arriving in the colonies, some developed dialects such as **Gullah**. **Gullah** was a spoken **language of Africans** that developed in the Sea Islands off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia. Other customs such as making **sea grass baskets** and **music** were important to the slaves in bringing a piece of their African culture into the new world. **Slave owners** began to feel **threatened** by this **growing population of slaves**. Slave owners then decided to implement **slave codes** to regulate the behavior of slaves in the colonies.

Some **slaves** in the **north** were able to **work** additional **jobs** in order to **purchase their freedom**. A child born to a **mother in slavery** would become a **slave**. However, if a **mother's freedom** was **purchased**, then her **children** would also become **free**. Many **free Africans** found **work** in the **north** as artisans and apprentices. Later, some **slaves** would **fight** in the **American Revolution** in hopes of receiving **freedom** in return for fighting for the colonies.

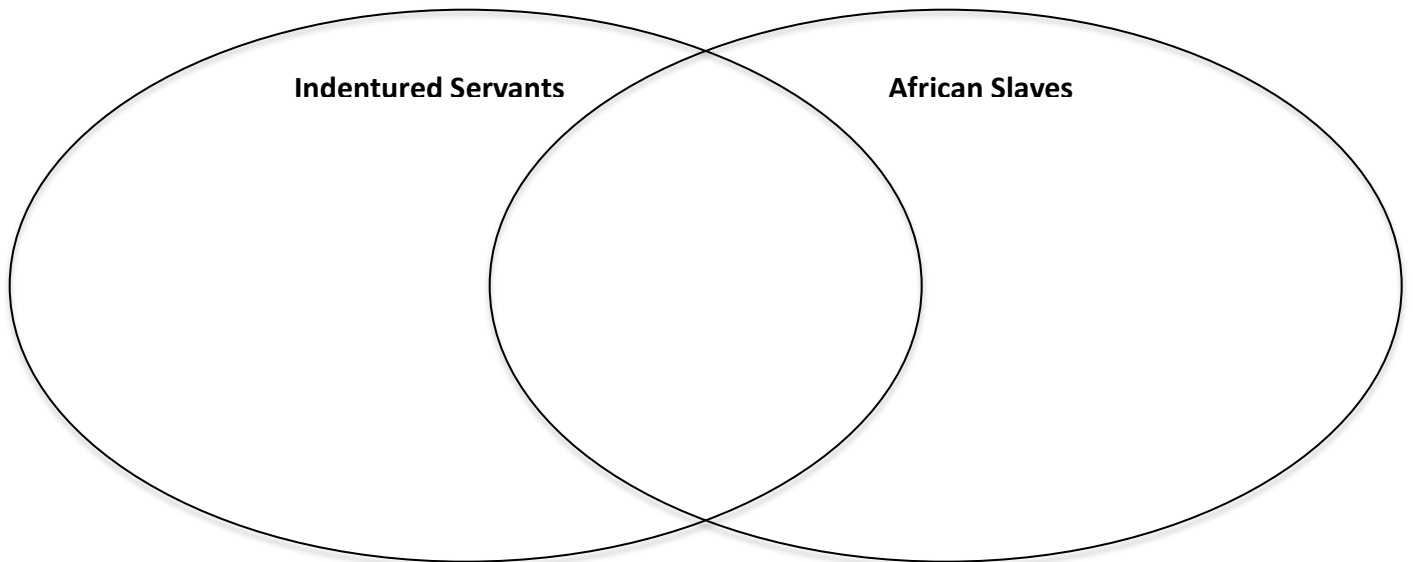
4-2.3 How did Africans change the culture and economy of North America?

Title: _____



1. Add a **title** to the diagram
2. Label the following on the map:
 - **North America**
 - **West Indies**
 - **Europe**
 - **Africa**
3. Label the following on the arrows:
 - **Manufactured goods**
 - **Enslaved Africans**
 - **Raw materials**

Compare and contrast Indentured Servants and African Slaves.



Social impact of Africans on North American culture	Economic impact of Africans on North American culture