

Name: _____

Date: _____

Second Middle Passage

Document A: Domestic Slave Trade

This graph is based on the research of University of Liverpool historian Michael Tadman.



Source: Michael Tadman, *Speculators and Slaves: Masters, Traders, and Slaves in the Old South*. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1989, 12.

1. (Sourcing) Who conducted the research for this chart? Why might this chart be a useful source to help explain why the slave trade was known as the Second Middle Passage?

2. (Close reading) Slave traders captured and forced approximately four hundred thousand Africans onto ships to the United States during the Middle Passage. According to this document, how many slaves did traders sell across state lines from 1820-1860?

3. Using evidence from this document, complete the following sentence:

Historians refer to the slave trade within the United States as the Second Middle Passage because

Document B: Mingo White's Narrative (Modified)

Context: *Levi D. Shelby Jr., an African American interviewer for the Federal Writers' Project, conducted this interview with former slave Mingo White sometime between 1936 and 1938. White was in his 90s at the time of the interview, which took place in Tuscumbia, Alabama.*

Document: I was born in Chester, South Carolina, but I was mostly raised in Alabama. . . . When I was about four or five years old, I was loaded in a wagon with a lot more people in it. Where I was going, I didn't know. Whatever became of my mother and father I didn't know for a long time.

I was told there were a lot of slave buyers in Chester to buy some slaves for some folks in Alabama. I remember that I was taken up on a stand and a lot of people came around and felt my arms and legs and chest, and asked me a lot of questions. Before we slaves were taken to the trading post, Old Master Crawford told us to tell everybody that asked us if we'd ever been sick to tell them that we'd never been sick in our life. We had to tell them all sorts of lies for our Master or else take a beating.

I was just a child, taken away from my mother and father just when I needed them most. The only caring that I had or ever knew anything about was given to me by a friend of my father. His name was John White. My father told him to take care of me for him. . . . My father and mother were sold from each other, too, at the same time as I was sold. . . .

I was nothing but a child enduring slavery, but I had to work the same as any man. I went to the field and watered cotton, and picked cotton with the rest of the hands. I kept up too, to keep from getting any whippings. . . .

Source: *"Interview with Mingo White." In A Folk History of Slavery in the United States From Interviews with Former Slaves, c. 1936-1938.*

1) (Sourcing) When was this interview conducted? How might this affect the reliability of this source?

2. (Close reading) How does this document provide evidence of the human impact of the slave trade? List at least three pieces of evidence.

3. Using evidence from this document, complete the following sentence:

Historians refer to the slave trade within the United States as the Second Middle Passage because

Document C: Slave Trader Letter (Modified)

Context: *A. J. McElveen was an agent for Ziba B. Oakes, a prominent slave trader and auctioneer in Charleston, South Carolina. This is a letter McElveen sent to Oakes.*

Document: A. J. McElveen to Z. B. Oakes, Sumterville, S.C., 10 July 1853.

I send you one **boy**, which I hope will please you well. I think he is as near number one as boys get. The price I think is rather high. I hope he will pay a acceptable profit. It is the best that can be done.

[For] boy Wilson Bough of Mr. Semore I paid \$775. I hope you will be able to get \$900 for him.

I refused a **girl** 20 years of age at \$700 yesterday. I offered \$675 for her. I think it's enough. If you think it's best to take her at \$700 I can still get her. She is very badly whipped but has good teeth. The whipping was done long ago.

The prices up here are a lot. They ask from \$950 to \$1000 for fellows and \$800 for girls generally.

I weighed this boy Wilson. His weight is 100 pounds by the scales this evening. I will try and have some more next week. Do let me hear from you. I leave here Thursday for below. I will return next week.

Vocabulary

Boy: term used to refer to an enslaved man

1. (Sourcing) Who was A.J. McElveen? What was his purpose for writing this letter?

2. (Close reading) What do McElveen's descriptions of slaves tell you about the domestic slave trade?

3. (Corroboration) Compare this account to Document B. What information from Document B does this letter support?

4. Using evidence from this document, complete the following sentence:

Historians refer to the slave trade within the United States as the Second Middle Passage because