Analyzing the Impact of Slavery and the Sugar Trade in the Americas

Lesson created by Betsy McBeth

**Grade level**: 6 (stand alone lesson at beginning or middle of unit)

**Subject Area:** Geography, Social Studies-Slavery, Economic-sugar trade

**Time Frame:** 3- 45 minutes periods

**Standards:**

**Standard 1, History**

2. Analyze the historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes in regions of the Western Hemisphere and their relationships with one another.

**Standard 2, Geography**

2. Recognize that human and physical systems vary and interact

**Essential Question:** How does the relationship of slavery and sugar affect the growth of the Atlantic Commerce in Central America, the Caribbean, and South America?

**CLO:** I will analyze through reading, writing and verbally discussion, the history of the Atlantic Slave trade and the relationship to the sugar trade.

**Materials:** Copy of Article(s), Pictures, Sticky notes and/or highlighters, chromebooks/computers, chart

**Lesson Description:** In this lesson, students will learn the history of the sugar trade and how slavery had an impact on the World. Through reading of an article, socratic seminar, viewing the CyArk map and charting the the countries that took slaves, students will analyze and interpret historical sources, and understand how human and physical systems vary and interact.

**Activity:**

**Day 1:**

1. Handout article, [Essay on history of slave trade and sugar](https://www.learner.org/courses/worldhistory/support/reading_14_1.pdf), give students time to read, use sticky notes and highlight. Students can work with a partner to highlight phrases that they think help explain the following questions.

1. What was one cause of Slavery?
2. Who (which countries) started the Slave Trade?
3. Why was Sugar so important?
4. Why did sugar producers use African people?
5. What inferences can you make about sugar from the 1500’s-1800’s and has it changed today?
6. Which Latin American country had the biggest impact due to the sugar and slave trade? Such as, maybe a country gain in economic value, or grew in population due to the slave trade?
7. Who was the most impacted, the countries or the slaves and why?

**Day 2**

1. Using Socratic Seminar format, discuss article.
2. Exit ticket should be to explain in a short paragraph, what did students learn about the relationship between slavery and the sugar trade.

**Day 3**

1. Hand out chart for the list of countries and amount of Slaves.
2. Using the computers, go to the CyArk website [www.CyArk.org](http://www.cyark.org)
3. Click on the Atlantic Slave Trade unit. View the map. Click on individual blue drops to get the name and the amount of slaves.
4. Write names and amount on chart.
5. Share out the findings as to what they discovered by answering the questions below the class chart.

Resources:

Articles: History of Slave Trade and the Sugar Trade in the Atlantic

1. https://www.learner.org/courses/worldhistory/support/reading\_14\_1.pdf
2. Modified article from Live Science: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PqvFGLhhlexpn19AhqxE6AVZcWk96O8aX1I4WHWvvSQ/edit>
3. Pictures
4. Chart: see below

Chart of Countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cities/Countries Where Slaves Landed | Amount of Slaves |
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Questions to ask/answer:

1. Which Country had the most slaves arrive in their port(s)?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of slaves?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Which Country has the least amount of slaves arrive in their port(s)?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of slaves?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Are there any patterns that you notice about a particular country or route?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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