

The Colonial Economy and Triangular Trade

Triangular Trade

- 3 way trade between europe, africa, and americas
- europe gave goods ➡ africa gave ppl ➡ americas gave crops
- wasn't just about stuff, it was all about \$\$\$
- this trade kept slavery going for like 100s of years

Ships

- main way stuff and ppl moved around back then
- used in trade routes across the atlantic ocean
- life on ships = cramped, gross, and no wifi
- some ships were made just for carrying enslaved ppl

Middle Passage

- horrible trip across the atlantic for enslaved ppl
- packed on ships w/ no space or clean anything
- a lot didn't even survive, it was beyond terrible
- ppl were treated like cargo not humans

Plantations

- *huge farms for sugar, cotton, tobacco etc*
- *used enslaved africans to work the land*
- *made landowners rich, but was awful for the workers*
- *whole towns and economies grew around these farms*

Slavery

- ppl forced to work w/ no rights or freedom
- helped build the economy but was totally wrong
- learning abt it matters bc it still affects stuff today
- happened for centuries not just a “one time” thing

Molasses

- thick dark syrup from sugar cane, kinda looks gross if u spill it
- used to sweeten stuff but also to make rum
- was traded a lot between america and europe
- ppl used it in food too, not just for trade (like in baked beans for real lol)

Rum

- alcohol made from molasses, ppl were weirdly obsessed w/ it
- traded in triangle trade, made ppl rich
- mostly used by sailors, traders and colonists
- some places even used rum like money, which is wild

Sugar

- major crop on plantations, grown in caribbean and america
- everyone in europe wanted it, like real bad
- needed a lot of labor so they used enslaved ppl to get it done
- sugar started sweet but had a super bitter history tbh

Tobacco

- **grown a ton in southern colonies**
- **addictive and sold like crazy in europe**
- **helped economy but also increased slavery big time**
- **kinda started america's money game in a big way**

Textiles

- just fabrics and clothes made in europe
- traded for goods AND ppl (yea, seriously...)
- part of the triangle trade system
- helped start early factories and jobs in europe too