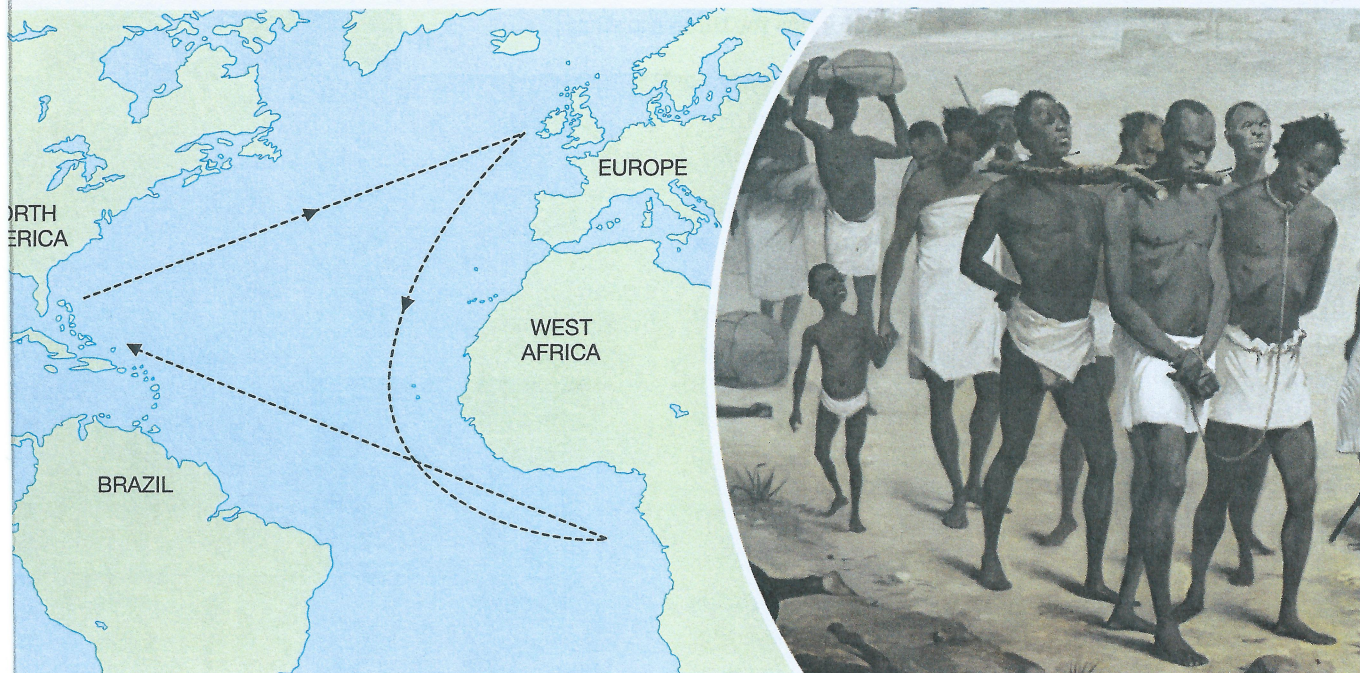


Slavery

Between 1620 and 1820, millions of Africans were transported across the Atlantic and sold into slavery in the Americas. Most of them worked on plantations or large farms, especially in the south of the USA.



A TRIANGLE OF TRADE

The British slave trade was known as 'the triangular trade' because of the route it took. Ships departed from British ports with goods such as guns and cloth. These goods were exchanged with African chiefs for slaves. The slave ships then carried their cargo across the Atlantic to the Americas and the Caribbean.

Here the traders sold the slaves at auctions and, with the money, they bought sugar, tobacco, rum and molasses. Finally, the ships returned to Britain carrying this cargo, which was sold at huge profits. At the time of the Industrial Revolution, the profits of the slave trade amounted to 5% of the British economy.

Warm up

1 Look at the introduction and the map. Answer the questions.

- 1 What areas of the world did the slave trade involve?
- 2 When did it take place?
- 3 Why was it called 'The Triangular Trade'?
- 4 Where did the slaves come from?
- 5 How were they transported to the USA?
- 6 Which country did the traders return to after trading the slaves in the USA?

Reading

2 Complete the steps of the slave trade.

- 1 Ships sailed from¹ full of².
- 2 They arrived in³ where the goods were exchanged for⁴.
- 3 The slave ships sailed onto⁵ where the slaves⁶.
- 4 The traders then bought⁷ and filled the ships.
- 5 The ships then returned to⁸.