

Fill in the boxes below to describe a dilemma you have faced. List the choices you had. Then tell which option you chose, and explain why.

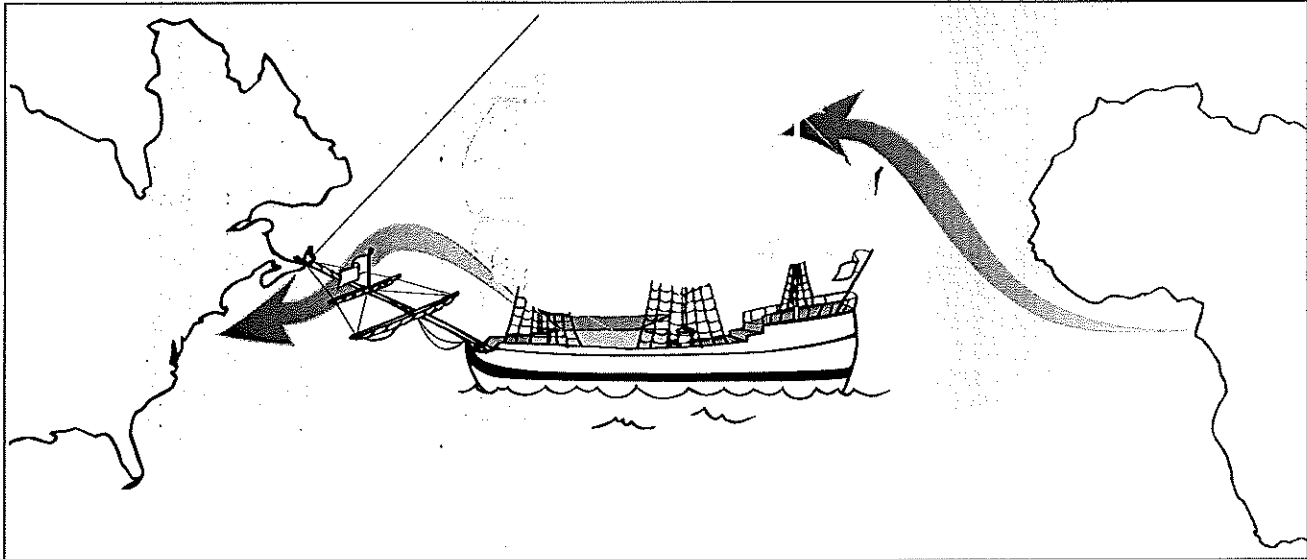
The Dilemma

The Choices I Had

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

My Choice and Why I Made It

Dilemma 1: Trading Slaves for Guns in West Africa



1. Read Section 3. Discuss this question with your group: *Why did European traders come to West Africa?*

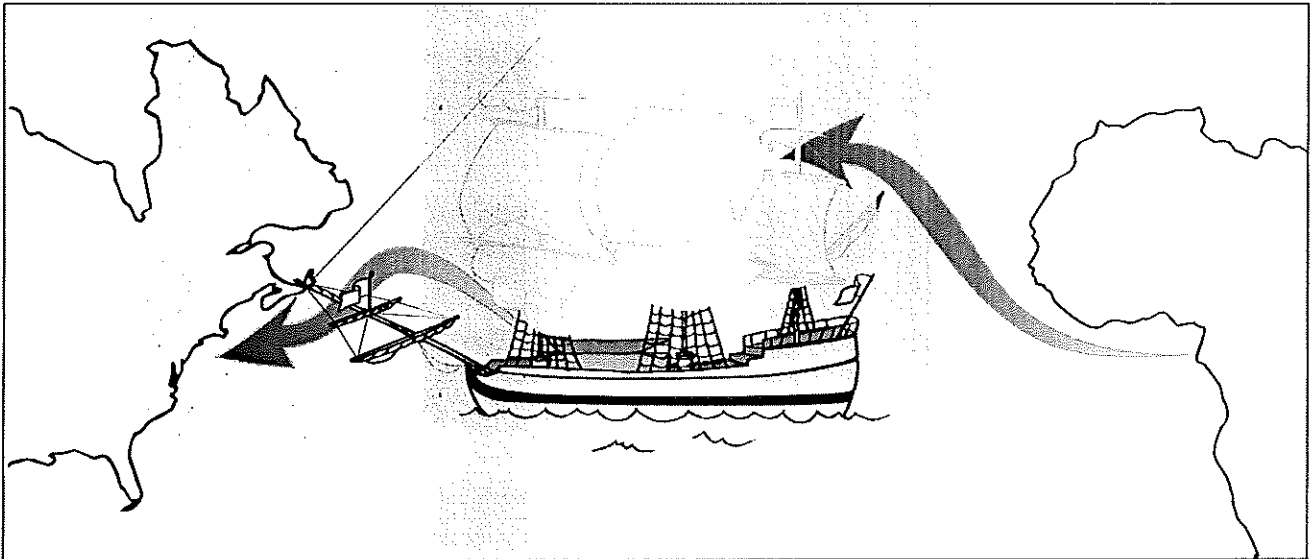
3. Complete this sentence:
We chose option _____ because . . .

2. Critical Thinking Question A
Suppose that Europeans have been trading guns for slaves with your rival village. You now need guns for protection. Discuss the options below. What should you do? Why?

- a. We should refuse to sell slaves to Europeans.
- b. We should raid villages and capture people to trade for guns.
- c. We should trade our prisoners of war for guns.

4. Read Section 4. List at least three ways in which Africans actually responded to European slave traders.

Dilemma 2: Surviving the Middle Passage



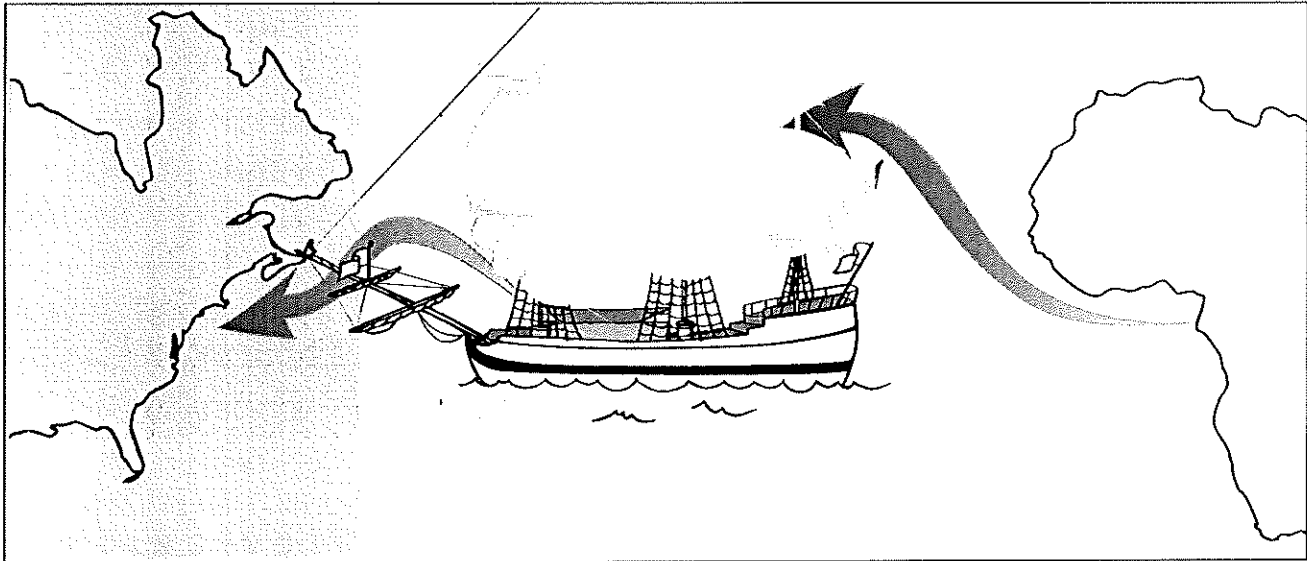
5. Read Section 5. Discuss this question with your group: *What five words or phrases best describe the voyage?*

7. Complete this sentence:
We chose option _____ because . . .

- 6. Critical Thinking Question B**
Suppose that you are an enslaved African. How would you respond to the inhumane conditions of the Middle Passage? Why?
- a. I would refuse to eat and would resist any help from the slave traders or other captured Africans.
 - b. I would try to organize a revolt by the captive Africans against the slave traders, although I might be killed.
 - c. I would try to maintain my strength in order to survive the voyage.

8. Read Section 6. List at least three ways in which enslaved Africans actually responded during the Middle Passage.

Dilemma 3: Living as a Slave in the Colonies



9. Read Section 7. Discuss these questions with your group:

What were two ways in which enslaved Africans were sold?

What were three things that happened to slaves during their first year in America?

10. Critical Thinking Question C

Suppose that a plantation owner bought you at a slave auction and sent you to work in the tobacco fields. How would you respond to your new life? Why?

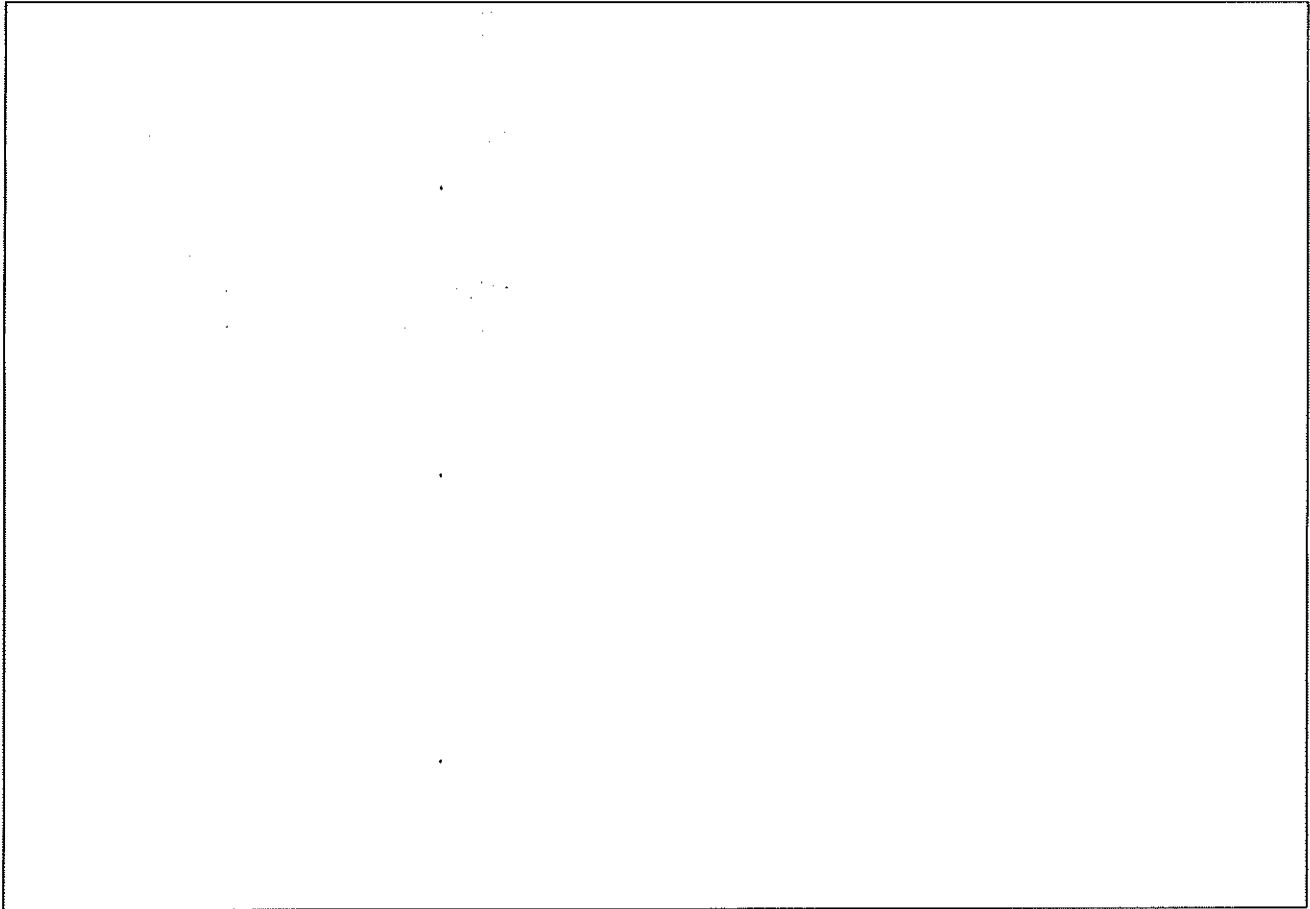
- a. I would run away, although I might be caught and punished severely.
- b. I would resist by breaking tools, working slowly, acting sick, and singing songs with secret messages.
- c. I would work hard and obey the rules, in hopes that I might be treated well.

11. Complete this sentence:

We chose option _____ because . . .

12. Read Section 8. List three ways in which slaves reacted to their new situation.

Draw a picture in the box below that shows one way in which slaves tried to make their lives more bearable.



What are the enslaved Africans doing in the drawing? How do you think they feel as they participate?

How do you think the slave owners might respond to this activity? Why?

Suppose that you are a West African caught up in the slave trade in the early 1700s. Write a journal entry describing one day of your life, either in West Africa, during the Middle Passage, or in North America. Your entry should include these details:

- an accurate description of what happened to you on that day
- an explanation of the dilemma you faced
- an explanation of how you dealt with the dilemma and why you reacted that way

