The Slave Trade

Freedom for all?
Slavery

- Slave: a person who is the property of and wholly subject to another.
Step 1: From the Interior

Captured Africans are brought to the coast from the interior of Africa
"I must own, to the shame of my own countrymen, that I was first kidnapped and betrayed by some of my own complexion, who were the first cause of my exile and slavery."

- Ottobah Cugoano
Step 2: Waiting

Captured Africans were held in Costal “Slave Factories” till they could be loaded on boats to go to the Americas.
Step 3: Across the Atlantic

Slaves loaded on European Ships and taken from west coast of Africa and sent to Europe and the Americas
The Middle Passage

Slaves packed onto slave ships for journey across Atlantic Ocean
"The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, added to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us. This produced copious perspirations, so that the air soon became unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells, and brought on a sickness among the slaves, of which many died."

- Olaudah Equiano
Step 4: American Markets

- In late 1700s slave markets established in Philadelphia, Charlestown, Richmond, and New Orleans
- Little regard given to families
  - Often broken up
- Slavery had been a part of the United States since 1619 (Jamestown)
“The latter gentleman was very loquacious, dwelling at much length upon our several good points and qualities. He would make us hold up our heads, walk briskly back and forth, while customers would feel of our hands and arms and bodies, turn us about, ask us what we could do, make us open our mouths and show our teeth, precisely as a jockey examines a horse which he is about to barter for or purchase. Sometimes a man or woman was taken back to the small house in the yard, stripped, and inspected more minutely. Scars upon a slave's back were considered evidence of a rebellious or unruly spirit, and hurt his sale.”
Only about 4% sent to North America, Most were sent to South America and the Caribbean
Step 5: Sent to Work

Slaves worked on *plantations* harvesting Tobacco, corn, and Cotton, as house workers, and in industry.
• Slaves sent to Americas, Raw goods sent to Europe, Manufactured goods used to buy more slaves in Africa