Museum: Wade In The Water

The museum Wade In The Water was titled after a freedom song used in the 1800s by slaves to teach through song a passage for safe travel to the North.
The location of this museum is located Boone Hall Plantation in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.
The Experience: A cycle of a fight for freedom. The Transatlantic slave trade evolved in many directions as the years went on from life-spans among slaves ranging from 2 years or less. After economy changes increased more slaves took on roles in plantations both in the home and outside in the fields. The journey through this museum is to bring to life the plantation slave experience from the eyes of the slaves themselves, from the slave auction to the escape towards freedom of the brave few.

Gender

The percent of women on slave ships started to get higher in the mid-17th century. Each ship had vastly different amounts of women but they did become more prominent on the slave ships in the late 18th century. In the late 18th and early 19th century the number of women aboard those ships increased because they realized what the women could do at the plantations. The women were kept in the house to cook, clean, and teach the children. The women were sold to plantation owners for very low prices and they occasionally were sold with their children. They were treated better than the men, some of them being provided clothes for summer and clothes and blankets for the winter. https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyager/databases

Age

The amount of people onboard slave ships and the demographics of children changed dramatically through the 18th century. The percentage of the children on board increased in the later years as more women and men survived for longer periods of time on plantations. The ratio seemed to be gathering since and women and taking them to the labor plantations due to shorter lifespans, but more children were brought in to plantations to be put to work there, since during the 17th and 18th century slaves lived longer in the southern region of North America.

Children were not brought in at large numbers during the early stages of slavery due to the lifespan of slaves being only two years. Owners had no interest in spending resources on keeping the same enslaved African that arrived on their plantations alive long enough to care for children within that environment.

References: https://www.slavevoyages.org

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