

AGE

The Trans-Atlantic Slave trade impacted more children than many people realize. When most people think of Enslaved Africans they often picture a group of adult males shackled together. History shows us that this was not always the reality. During the time of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade the selling of children steadily became more popular. Stats from the Caribbean show us that between the years 1545 and 1700, children made up around 10.9% of the enslaved Africans, then from 1701 to 1807, around 23.1% of those enslaved were children, and finally between 1808 and 1864, 30.9% of enslaved Africans being transported were children. There are records of ships such as the Voadora that had 96.8% children and 62.9% of that was little girls. Due to poor records we will never know just how many African children were impacted by slavery, but we do know that their struggles should be remembered.



GENDER

One of the ways Europeans justified their belief that the African peoples were "others" and thus beneath them is by observing the African women's exposed breast. The exposed breast on the enslaved woman depicted in the exhibit is a symbol to the many wrongful justifications that led to the enslavement of these African peoples. The effects of these justifications are still felt today with the marginalization of African men and women.



Also we see an image of a movie poster for a film "Daughters of the Congo" by Oscar Micheaux, an African-American film director. This film was about a Congolese woman who was abducted, then rescued and brought to America. The reason this image was chosen is because this movie received heavy criticism for its depictions of the "wealthy westerners" and the "abhorred Africans". The white westerners were dressed in European clothes and the Africans were shown to be wearing nothing. This is supposed to depict the westerners as civilized and the Africans as savages.

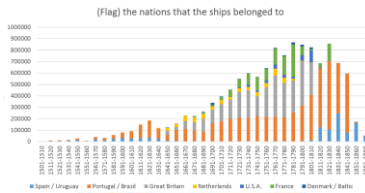


WESTERN POWERS

Out of all the nations that participated in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, Portugal and Great Britain were by far the most responsible. Portugal laid the foundations and subsequently became the premier nation for the slave trade. They began a limited slave trade with the African kingdom of Benin as early as the late 1400s. In order to supply labor to their sugar plantations on offshore islands near West Africa. The Portuguese later colonized Brazil in which they built large sugar plantations using slave labor. Nearly half of the enslaved African peoples bound for the Americas were sent to Brazil, due to Europe's insatiable demand for sugar. The life expectancy for the enslaved in Brazil was at most two years.

Britain, with its vast amount of colonies in North America and the Caribbean engaged in similar enterprises as the Portuguese. Only three to five percent of enslaved Africans were sent to the North American colonies, the rest were sent to the Caribbean. Out of the nearly 10 million African peoples enslaved, nearly 7 million were enslaved by these two nations combined.

However, the slave trade began to grind to a halt in the early 19th century. The Danish were among the first to abolish it in 1802. Britain and the United States followed and outlawed the trade in 1807. However, it wasn't until the 1840s when the Brazilian and Cuban governments took serious action against the slave trade. The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade would gradually lose steam and abruptly end in 1867, due to the efforts of various nations.



THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR THE FIRST TWENTY

BY: JERIMIAH RAPP, JONATHAN DEROUEN, JOY FLOWERS, AND LOGAN RUSH

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade was responsible for the enslavement and displacement of many Africans of different ages, genders, and cultures. The memorial presents the diversity in a line of African men, women, and children trudging down a pier in chains, the last figure looking back across the ocean to Africa's western coast.



Patterns Of World History, by Peter Von Sivers et al., Third ed., Two from 1400, Oxford University Press, 2018, pp. 568, 576.
 "Slavery in British North America." *Patterns of World History*, by Peter Von Sivers et al., Third ed., Two from 1400, Oxford University Press, 2018, pp. 577–578.
Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Database, www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/database#maps.
Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade-Database, Essays <https://www.slavevoyages.org/>

The Port of Hampton Roads in Chesapeake, Virginia is the location in which the first enslaved Africans arrived in North America in 1619. Only about 20 of the 60 Africans survived the voyage and departed.