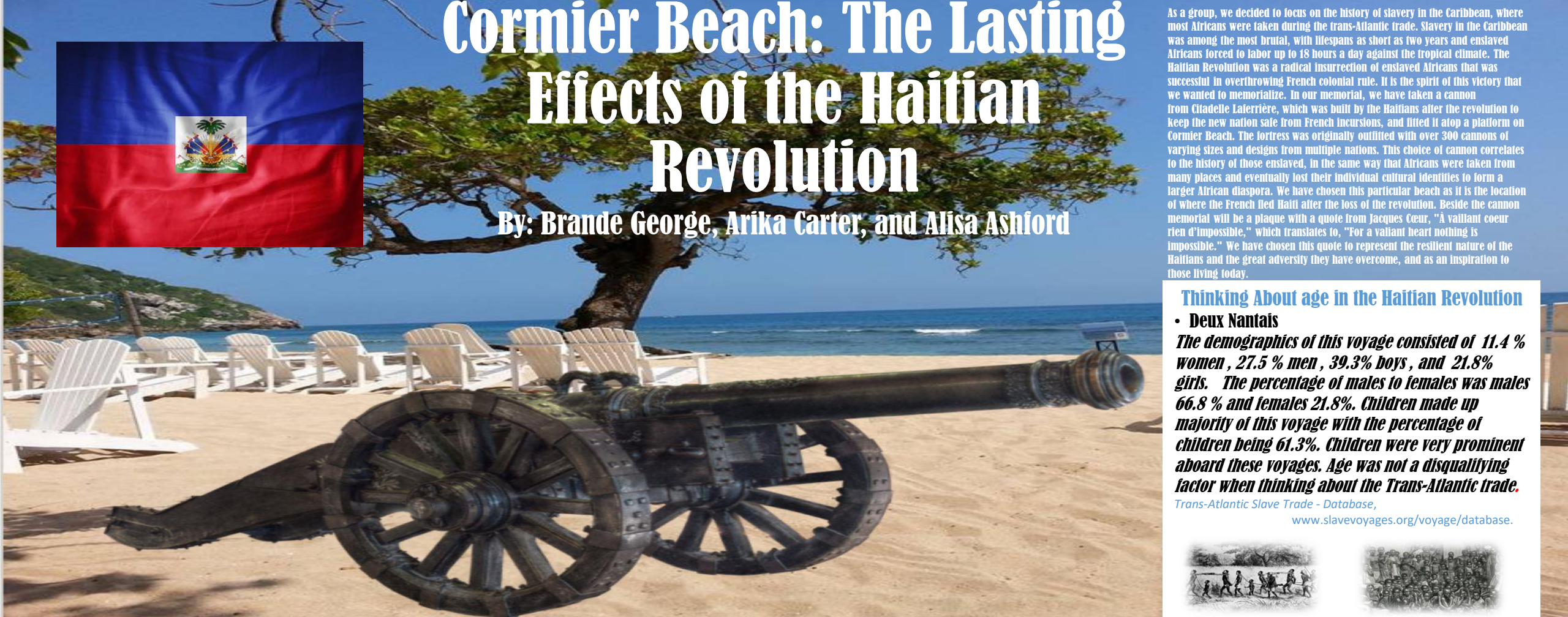


Cormier Beach: The Lasting Effects of the Haitian Revolution

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As a group, we decided to focus on the history of slavery in the Caribbean, where most Africans were taken during the trans-Atlantic trade. Slavery in the Caribbean was among the most brutal, with lifespans as short as two years and enslaved Africans forced to labor up to 18 hours a day against the tropical climate. The Haitian Revolution was a radical insurrection of enslaved Africans that was successful in overthrowing French colonial rule. It is the spirit of this victory that we wanted to memorialize. In our memorial, we have taken a cannon from Citadelle Laferrière, which was built by the Haitians after the revolution to keep the new nation safe from French incursions, and fitted it atop a platform on Cormier Beach. The fortress was originally outfitted with over 300 cannons of varying sizes and designs from multiple nations. This choice of cannon correlates to the history of those enslaved, in the same way that Africans were taken from many places and eventually lost their individual cultural identities to form a larger African diaspora. We have chosen this particular beach as it is the location of where the French fled Haiti after the loss of the revolution. Beside the cannon memorial will be a plaque with a quote from Jacques Cœur, "A vaillant coeur rien d'impossible," which translates to, "For a valiant heart nothing is impossible." We have chosen this quote to represent the resilient nature of the Haitians and the great adversity they have overcome, and as an inspiration to those living today.

Thinking About age in the Haitian Revolution

• Deux Nantais

The demographics of this voyage consisted of 11.4 % women , 27.5 % men , 39.3% boys , and 21.8% girls. The percentage of males to females was males 66.8 % and females 21.8%. Children made up majority of this voyage with the percentage of children being 61.3%. Children were very prominent aboard these voyages. Age was not a disqualifying factor when thinking about the Trans-Atlantic trade.

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Database, www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/database.



Thinking about place in the Haitian Revolution

Cormier Beach is located on the North Coast of Haiti in a port city known today as Cap-Haitien. This city used to be known as Cap-Français when it was owned by the French prior to the Haitian Revolution. During the Haitian Revolution, many enslaved Africans came together to fight for their independence from France. Cap-Français was the site of many major conflicts during the revolution. Most significantly, the French were defeated at the Battle of Vertières on November 18- 1803. They were forced to give up Cap-Français, and it was later renamed Cap-Haitien. The French were forced to evacuate the city, and to make sure they did so, cannons were turned on French ships in the harbor. This was the end of French military force on Haiti. This cannon symbolizes freedom for Haiti, and freedom for the Africans enslaved under French rule. It also represents a new beginning and a sense of hope.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Haitian Revolution." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 5 Sept. 2019. www.britannica.com/topic/HaitianRevolution#ref343634.
"Cap-Français." *Slavery and Remembrance*, slaveryandremembrance.org/articles/article/?id=A0102.
Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Database, www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/database#maps.



Thinking About Gender in the Haitian Revolution

Women and girls were a large demographic of Africans who were enslaved during the trans-Atlantic trade. The Slave Voyages Database reveals 118 voyages were comprised of at least 50% women. Two voyages were 100% female: the S Jose Diligente (1819) was 100% adult women and the Vencedor (1818) was 69.4% adult women and 30.6% girls, both of which landed in Havana. While on board the slave ships, women were commonly left unchained, but once reaching the destination, they experienced the same brutality as men. There is a misconception that enslaved women mostly served domestic and sexual roles, however, many women were forced into hard labor, especially on plantations in the Caribbean and South America. Shown right are several women in a Jamaican sugarcane field. Enslaved women also faced sexual and physical violence. Shown right is a depiction of a true event; Rosa, enslaved on a coffee plantation in Guyana, was pregnant (likely from rape) and finding it increasingly difficult to work. She was flogged as punishment and, as a result, went into premature labor and gave birth to a stillborn baby.

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Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Database. Accessed September 26, 2019. <https://www.slavevoyages.org/>.

