

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK NINE (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: HISTORY

CLASS: JSS3

TOPIC: TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

MEANING OF TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

This was the obnoxious trade in humans across the Atlantic ocean from the African hinterlands. It was described as **the triangular slave trade** where slaves who were bought from the African interior, were sent to the coasts and later transported to Europe.

ORIGIN OF THE TRADE

The Trans-Atlantic trade began in Africa when a Portuguese explorer known as Gonslaves returned to Lisbon in 1441 with some African slaves whom he presented to Prince Henry the Navigator who sponsored the expedition. Henry the Navigator received slaves with the aim of educating them, converting them to Christianity and returning them to Africa as missionaries. However, this policy was abandoned by his successors when he died.

In Nigeria, the slave trade started modestly with the arrival of the Portuguese on the Nigerian coast in the 15th century. However, by the 18th century, it had grown tremendously both in extent and volume. Kalabari, Bonny, Benin, Calabar, Okrika and Andoni were important slave ports during this period.

Causes of the trade/reasons for the trade

1. The Discovery of the New World(America).
2. The death of the West Indies and the need for substitute labour.
3. Increase in the establishment of plantations and high demand for slaves.

Organization of the trade

Three categories of people were involved in the Trans-Atlantic trade and these were:

1. The men who captured and sold the slaves,a function performed by Africans
2. Africans who brought the slaves to the coast and sold them to the coastal chiefs and merchants.
3. European merchants who bought the slaves from the African coastal chiefs and merchants and transported the slaves to Europe or the New World.

The trade was referred to as the triangular trade because it involved movement of slaves across three areas. Slaves were taken first from the African ports such as the port of Ughoton in Benin and then transported to the New World/America from which they were then later transferred to Europe with sugar, tobacco and cotton from the plantations in the New World. There was also a phase referred to as the Middle Passage which involved the shipment of numerous slaves packed like sardines across the Atlantic to North America.

HOMEWORK

1. What is Trans-Atlantic slave trade?
2. State three causes of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.
3. Describe the organization of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.