

Read Like a Historian: Middle Passage Activity**Document A: Portuguese Textbook**

- (1) Where was this textbook written? _____
- (2) How might this have influenced how it portrayed the Middle Passage?

- (3) According to the textbook, “The time between the moment the slaves were bought and when they arrived at port was very dangerous not only for the European traders but for the slaves as well. Why might the textbook’s authors have chosen to compare the experience of the ship’s crew to the experience of the slaves?

- (4) Why do you think the textbook used the word “migrations” to describe the Atlantic slave trade?

- (5) Why might this be a reliable source to understand the Middle Passage? Why not?

Document B: Slave Ship Captain

- (1) Who was Phillips? _____
- (2) How might his background have influenced what he wrote about the Middle Passage?

- (3) According to Phillips, what did the ship’s crew do for the slaves?

- (4) According to Phillips, why was being a slave trader such an unpleasant job?

- (5) Why might this be a reliable source to understand the Middle Passage? Why not?

Document C: Slave Ship Doctor

- (1) Who was Falconbridge? _____
- (2) How might his background have influenced what he wrote about the Middle Passage?



- (3) How might the conditions on the slave ship have been connected to the diseases that were so common among slaves?

- (4) Why do you think Falconbridge said that most surgeons only worked on slave ships because of their financial situations?

- (5) According to this document, what are two ways people experienced the Middle Passage?

Document D: Autobiography of a Former Slave

- (1) Who was Equiano?

- (2) How might his background have influenced what he wrote about the Middle Passage?

- (3) According to this document, what were TWO ways people experienced the Middle Passage?

- (4) Why do you think slaves were punished for not eating?

- (5) Why might this be a reliable source to understand the Middle Passage? Why not?

Final Conclusion Question

- (1) Which of these documents do you believe is the most reliable source of information about the Middle Passage? Explain WHY you believe it's the most reliable source of information.