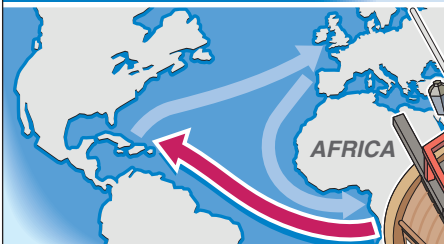


Slave trade: Middle Passage slave ship

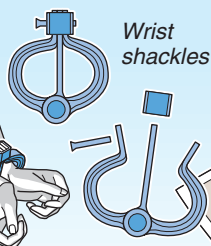
Slave ships were cargo vessels converted for the purpose of transporting slaves from Africa to the Americas. In order to achieve high profits, ship owners divided the hull into between decks to fit in as many slaves as possible. Sanitation was practically non-existent and mortality rates were high



Middle Passage: Transatlantic trip took one to five months depending on wind and weather conditions

RESTRAINT

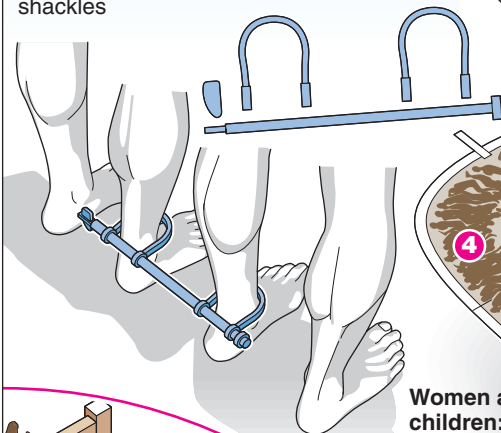
Restraining slaves minimised chance of rebellion and suicide. Uprising perceived not only as threat to ship's crew, but also to profit



Wrist shackles

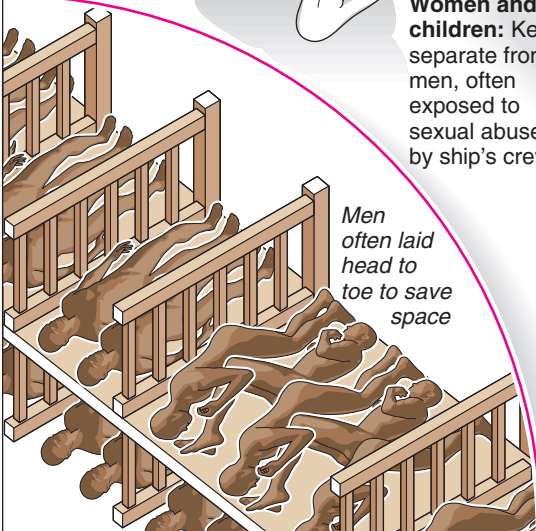
Male captives: Often joined in pairs by iron shackles

U-shaped ankle shackles



Women and children: Kept separate from men, often exposed to sexual abuse by ship's crew

Men often laid head to toe to save space



SLAVE CAPTAINS' OPTIONS

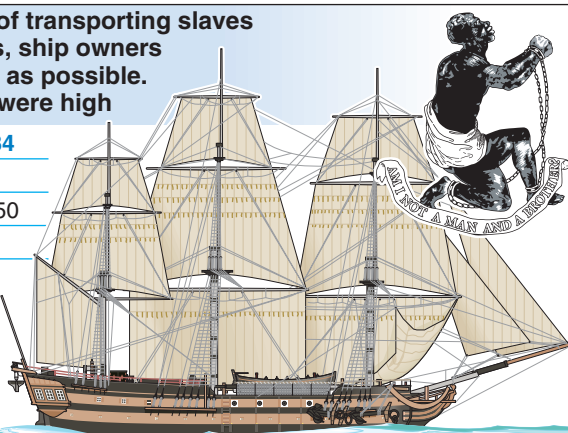
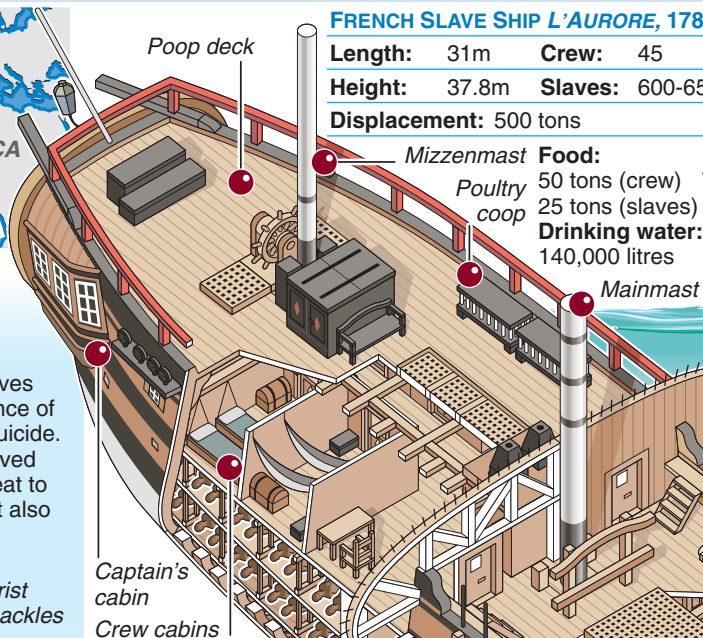
Loose packers: Carried fewer slaves in order to minimise sickness and death

Tight packers: Completely filled ship in hope that increased load would offset deaths and result in healthy profit

FRENCH SLAVE SHIP L'AUREORE, 1784

Length: 31m **Crew:** 45
Height: 37.8m **Slaves:** 600-650
Displacement: 500 tons

Food: 50 tons (crew)
25 tons (slaves)
Drinking water: 140,000 litres



Main deck partition:

Wooden wall topped with metal spikes protected crew in case of revolt by captives

Nets: Stopped slaves jumping overboard



Cat-o'-nine-tails: Multi-tailed whip used to beat and humiliate slaves

TRANSPORT OF SLAVES

Between deck:

1 Children	20
2 Women	50
3 Men	120

Lower deck:

4 Children	60
5 Women	70
6 Men	280