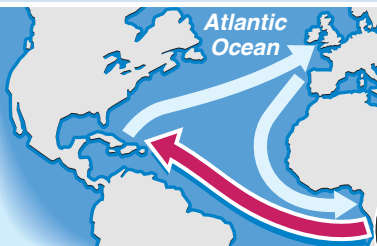
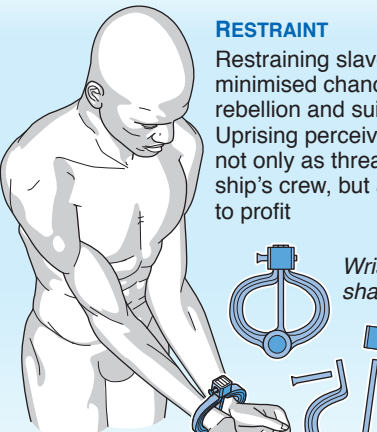


Slave trade: "Middle Passage" slave ship

Slave ships were cargo vessels converted to transport slaves from Africa to the Americas. 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

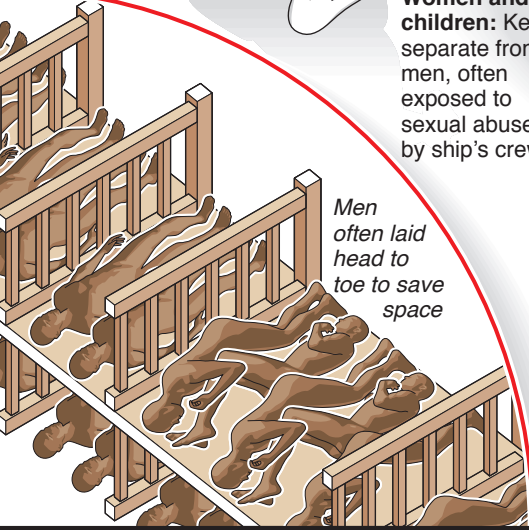
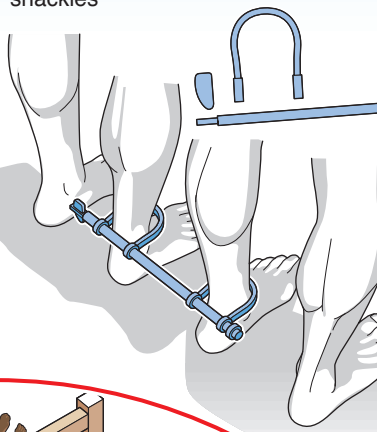


Middle Passage: Transatlantic trip took one to five months depending on wind and weather conditions



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

Male captives:
Often joined in pairs by iron shackles



Men often laid head to toe to save space

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

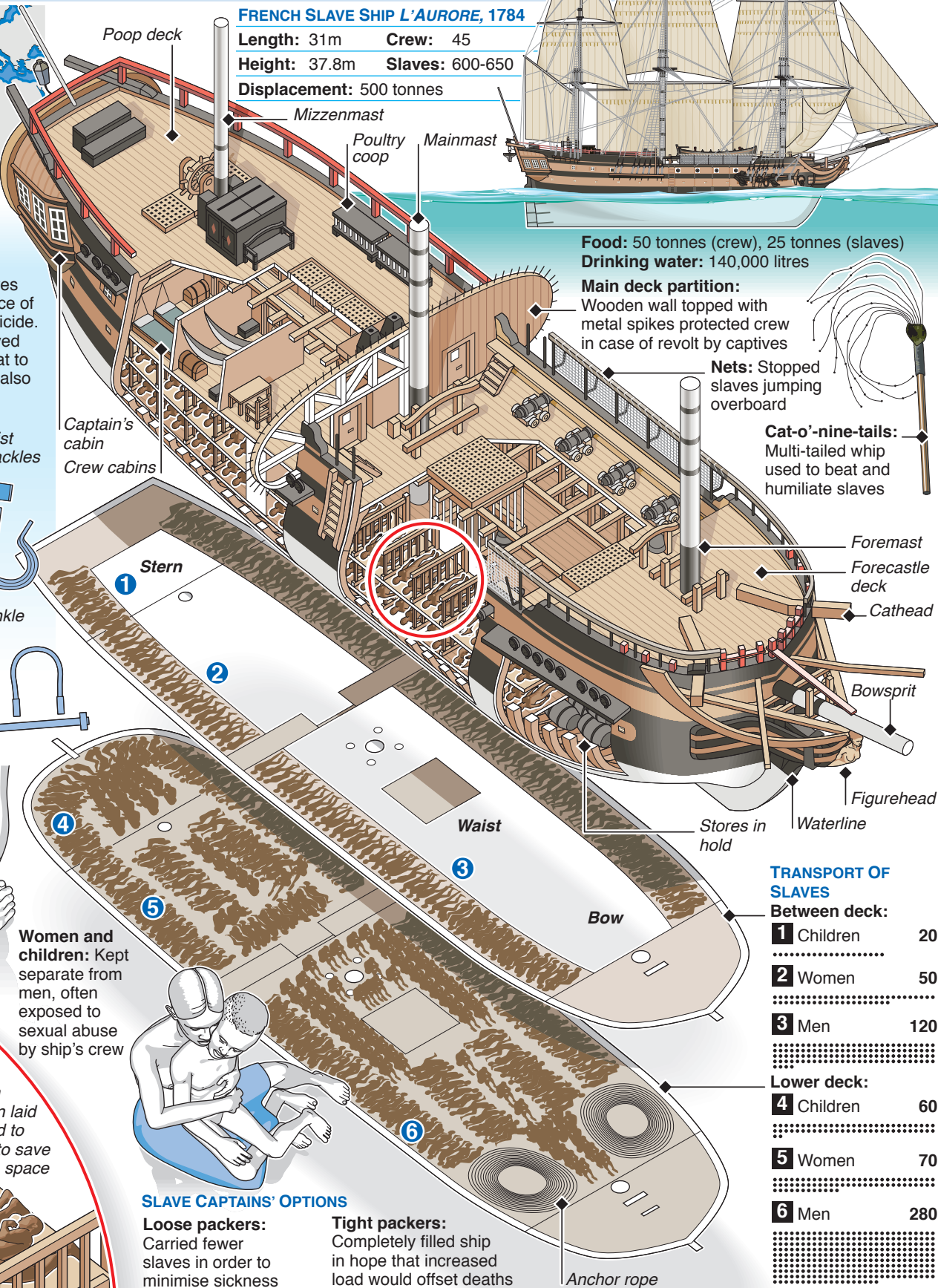


SLAVE CAPTAINS' OPTIONS

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'AURORE, 1784
Length: 31m Crew: 45
Height: 37.8m Slaves: 600-650
Displacement: 500 tonnes



Food: 50 tonnes (crew), 25 tonnes (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