

Hi, I'm  
Harriet.



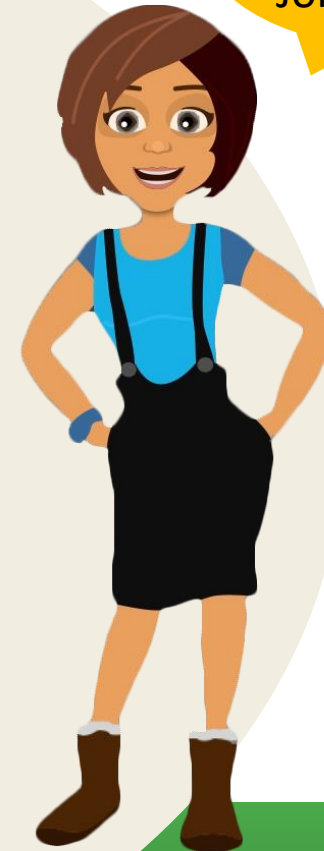
# TALKING HISTORY


with

**Harriet & Roxanne™**

**The History of Slavery**


And I'm  
Roxanne.  
Join us for...





Slavery started in Jamestown, Virginia, right?

Today, we are going to talk about slavery.



No, Roxanne, long before Christopher Columbus sailed to the New World, slavery was present in Europe and Africa.

Let's look at ancient China and the Roman Empire.

In the Shang Dynasty, about 5% of the population were slaves. China was the greatest merchant of slaves in the world.




Shang Dynasty (1600 – 1046 BC)

In the Roman Empire, Romans held half of the city of Rome's population as slaves.



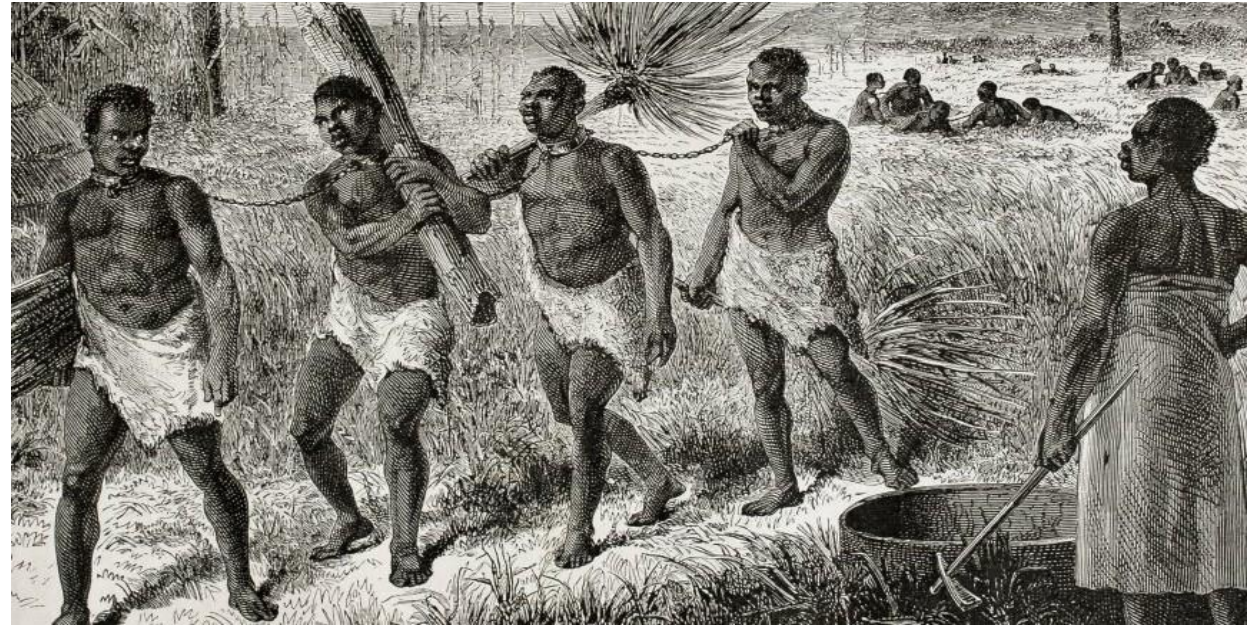
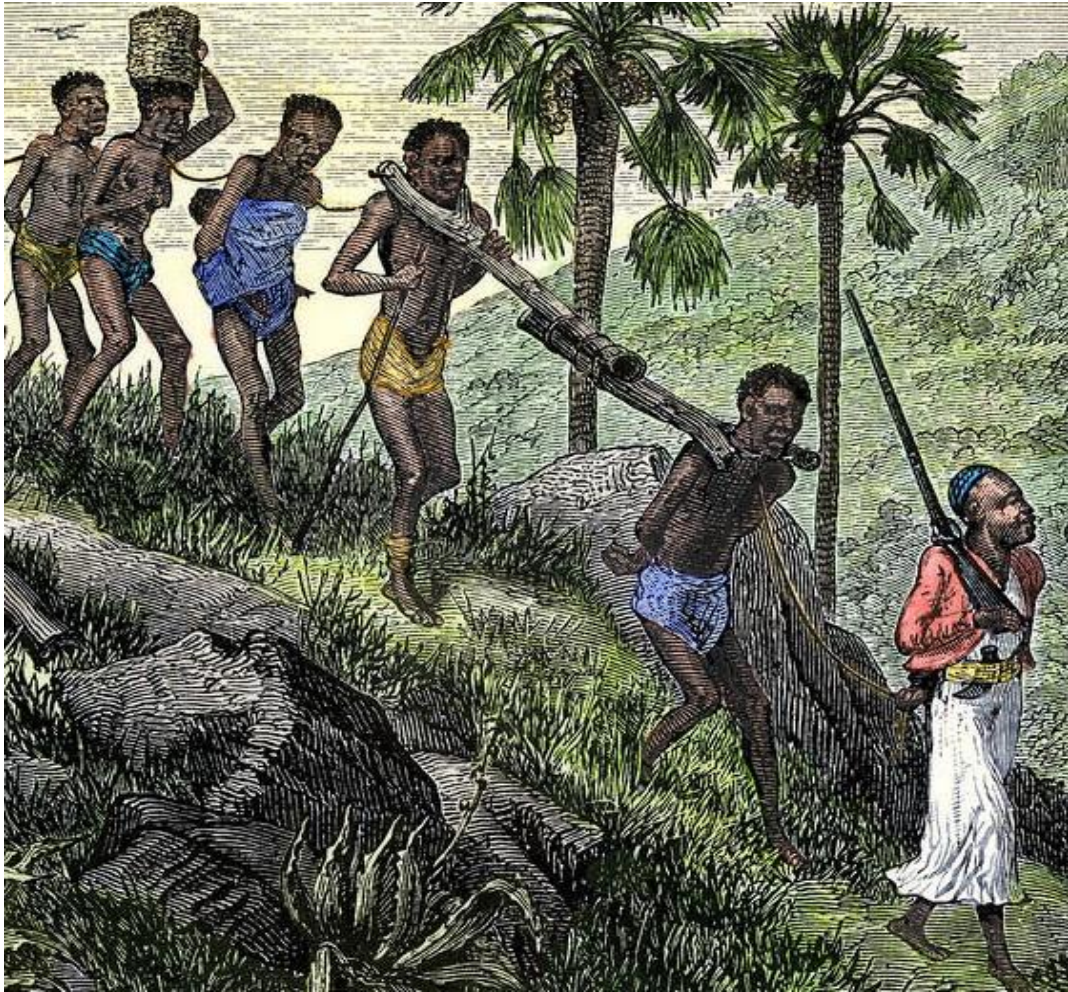
Roman Empire (27 BC – 476 AD)



Harriet, I noticed something. The slaves in the Shang Dynasty and the Roman Empire look the same as their enslavers.

For most of the history of slavery, slavery was not the enslavement of racially different people.

Good job Roxanne for noticing that!



Slavery was widely practiced in West Africa. The business of slavery was fueled by greedy African kings who kidnapped other tribe members and sold them to white slave traders. There were garrisons all along the Gold Coast, like the Castle of Ghana, that were used to hold these Africans until they could be shipped across the Atlantic Ocean.



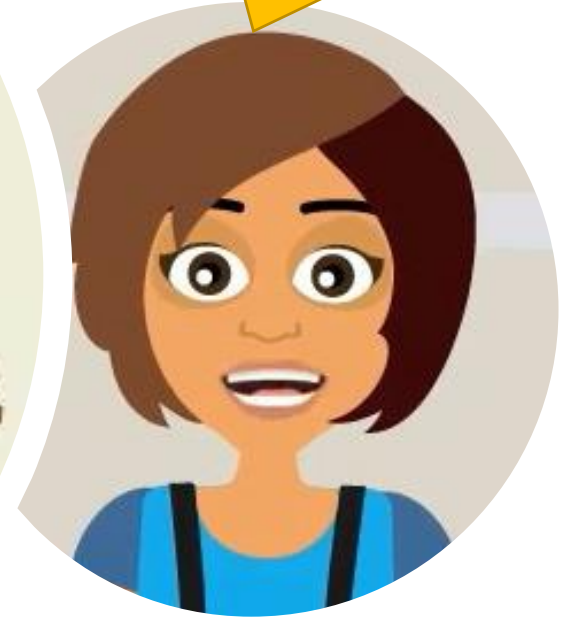
Arabs also captured Africans and sold them to the slave traders. The slave trade was a very profitable business for many different people.




More than 12 million Africans were captured and sent to the Caribbean and the American colonies from the Slave Coast of Africa.



Unbelievably sad!





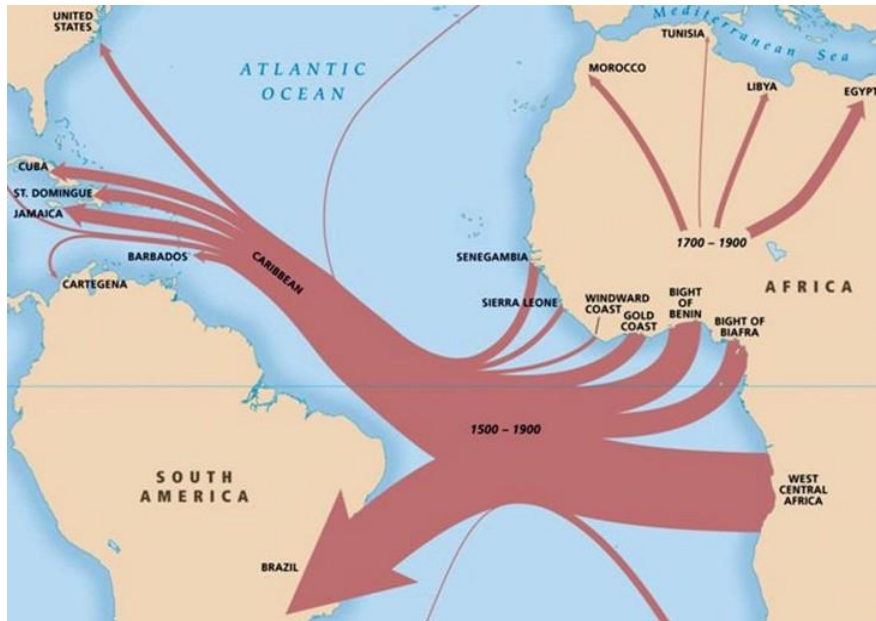


Do you remember at Jamestown the first people that labored in the fields were indentured servants?

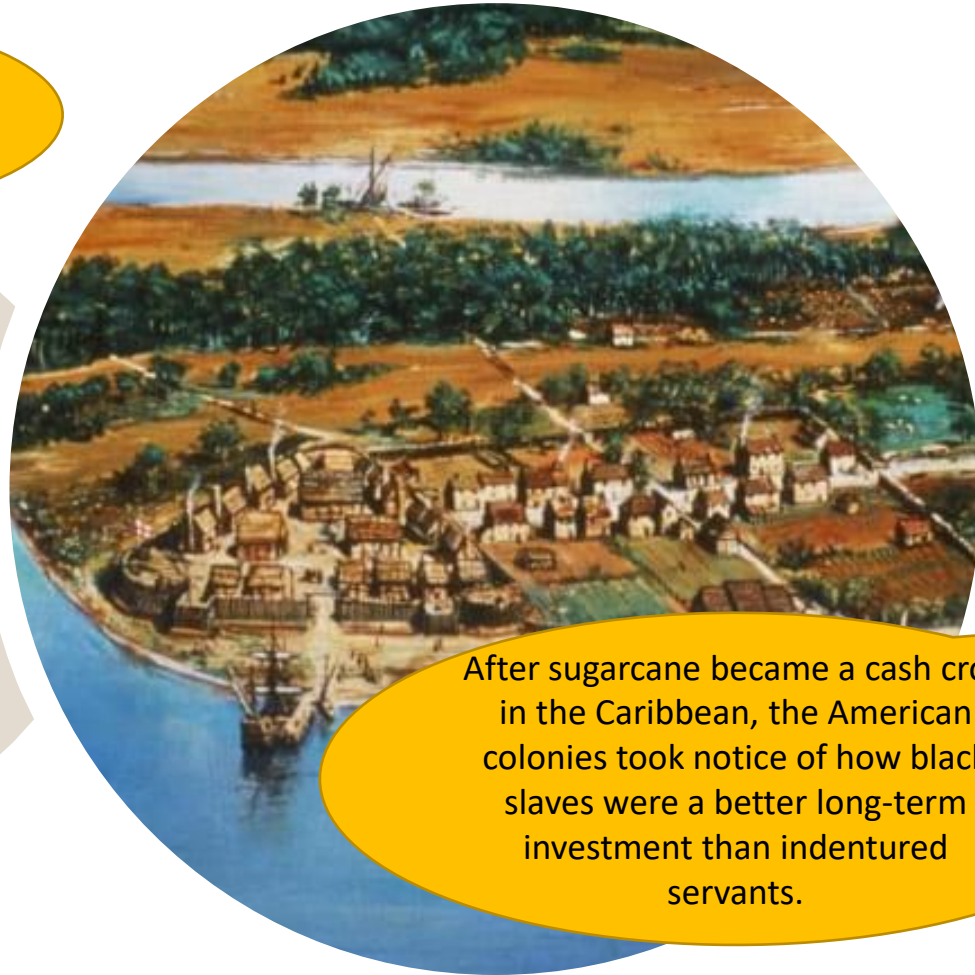
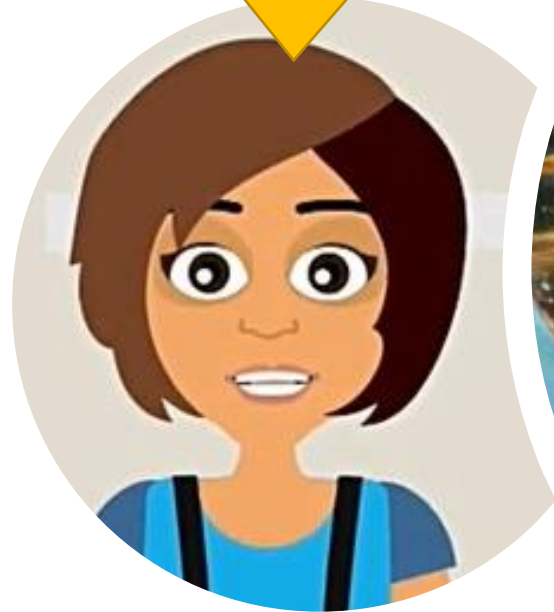
Yes, you taught me that, and told me that by 1680, slaves began to replace indentured servants in Jamestown.

England sent the first Africans to the Caribbean to work in the sugarcane fields, and then sent them to the American colonies.

The sugar colonies in the Caribbean were the most valuable to England, especially Barbados. After trying to use indigenous labor, England replaced them with slaves from Africa. As you can see on the map, most slaves were sent to the Caribbean.



So, what happened in Jamestown and the other American colonies?



After sugarcane became a cash crop in the Caribbean, the American colonies took notice of how black slaves were a better long-term investment than indentured servants.




So, now slaves were brought to the colonies with the Triangular Slave Trade from 1660 to 1808.



Roxanne, while the slave population increased in the colonies, there was a group of people that wanted to abolish slavery, and they were called abolitionists. It was a group of whites and blacks who gave speeches, wrote books, helped slaves escape, and did ever thing possible to end slavery. You can find this story on another lesson with “Talking History with Harriet & Roxanne.”





Please come back soon for more "Talking History with Harriet & Roxanne."

Because as you can see, we have a lot of history to share with you.



Help us keep educating America about black history. To keep this information coming, consider giving us your support at <https://www.yocumblackhistory.org/educational-fund/>

