Name:
Period:

Triangle Trade Reflection Questions

Directions: Define the following Terms. Using both the textbook and ideas discussed in class, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

subsistence farming ______________________________
raw materials ______________________________
manufactured goods ______________________________
export ______________________________
import ______________________________
mercantislism ______________________________
____

1. Paraphrase (explain briefly in your own words) the theory of mercantilism in relation to exports and imports. How did this theory lead countries to the develop colonies? (p.62)

____
____
____
____
____
____

2. Paraphrase the Navigation Acts? WHY did these acts anger the British colonies and HOW did they respond to these acts? (pg. 111 - 112)

____
____
____
____
____
____

3. What countries/continents were involved in the Middle Passage and why is this passage infamous? (p. 111 map)

____
____
____
____
____
____

4. Make a prediction of what future actions might be taken by Great Britain that causes the colonies to rebel?

____
____
____
____
____
____

Mother Mercantilism

By the 17th and 18th centuries Europeans believed strongly in the economic principles of mercantilism. Mercantilism is based on the idea that to be strong and successful, countries had to be wealthy. The key to wealth at the time, most believed, was colonies which could provide not only raw materials and other trade goods but also markets for European products.

In order to gain the greatest benefit from colonial trade, the European mother countries remained actively involved. For example the British East India Company which operated in the American colonies and elsewhere was granted a monopoly on trade and, in exchange, shared its profits with Britain. Raw materials such as wood were shipped from the colonies to England where they were made into furniture, paper, and other products that were, in turn, sold in the colonies. Another means of profiting from trade was through taxes.

Because colonies were such an enormous source of wealth, there was stiff competition among the European powers to gain and keep as many colonies as possible. Rivalries that already existed in Europe over religious differences and from past wars increased due to the economic competition.

Based on information in the passage, make up definitions for:

mercantilism –

market –

monopoly –

profits –

Do you agree or disagree with the idea of mercantilism? Explain why.

What effects do you predict mercantilism could have had on Europe and the American colonies?

Trade Triangle

Slavery was, by no means, a colonial invention to fill a labor shortage. On the contrary slavery had existed since ancient times, and the African slave trade had been thriving for centuries with Arabs to the east. Slave trading was certainly not new, but in the 450 years of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, it reached gigantic proportions.

Portugal, in its exploration of the African coast, began the European slave trade in the mid-1400's and later expanded it to provide workers for New World colonies throughout the Americas. Once its profit was noted, other Europeans joined in the trade. Ships filled with human cargo soon made up one leg of a regular three-way trading triangle between Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

On the first leg of the journey, a slave ship loaded with cloth, hardware, beads, guns, gunpowder, and other goods sailed from Europe to Africa, where these items were traded for slaves. Though a few slaves were captured by European slave traders, most were obtained through negotiations with African tribal leaders. Once deals were made, slaves were loaded onto cargo ships for the second leg of the triangular trade.

This next portion of the journey, called the "middle passage," lasted a grueling ten weeks or more. Slaves were crowded into ships' holds, often in chains, in horrible and unsanitary conditions. It is estimated that around 15-20% died from malnutrition and disease on the voyage. When they arrived in the Americas, the slaves were sold, mostly in South America but also in the British colonies to the north.

To conclude the triangular trade slave traders bought plantation products including sugar, molasses, rum, and tobacco. These were returned to Europe and sold or traded before setting sail on the trans-Atlantic trade triangle once more.

DRAW A DIAGRAM TO ILLUSTRATE TRANS-ATLANTIC TRIANGULAR TRADE: