

Triangular slave trade

The triangular slave trade was a very profitable system of enslavement, developed to provide labour for plantations in the Americas. It involved three journeys:



① The first journey

Goods, including metal and guns, were transported to the west coast of Africa.

② The second journey

Enslaved African people were transported to the Caribbean and the Americas. This journey was also known as the middle passage.

③ The third journey

Goods produced on the plantations were transported back to Europe.

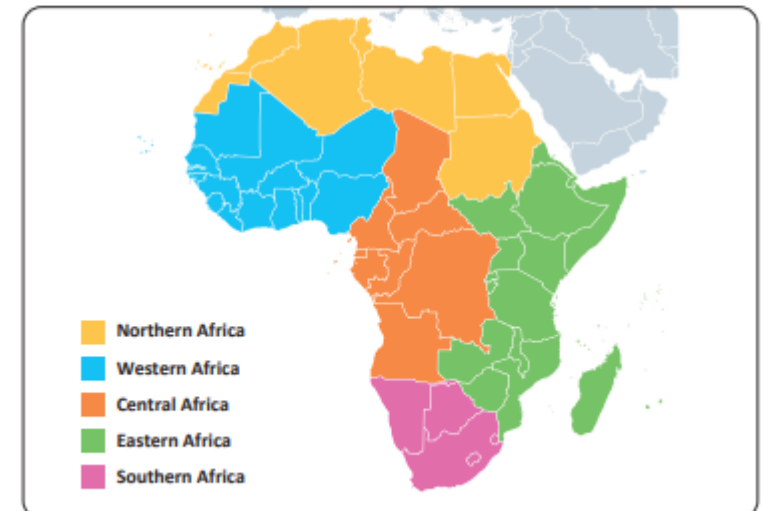
Key Events	
AD 400	The Yoruba people start using iron tools which enable them to clear the forest land effectively for the first time. Villages developed and chiefs emerged.
AD 600	The area becomes the Ife Kingdom, one of the earliest kingdoms in the West African Rainforest.
AD 900	The Kingdom of Benin begins to develop and boundaries are established around the region called Igodomigodo in what is now Nigeria.
AD 1091	The Edo people were ruled by the Ogiso , which means 'kings of the sky.'
AD 1100	The last Ogiso of Igodomigodo, Owodo, dies and there is nobody to rule.
AD 1180	Eweka becomes the new ruler and changes the name Igodomigodo to Edo . He calls himself the Oba .
AD 1300-1700	The 'golden age' of Edo . It has a large, powerful army and skilled craftspeople.
AD 1489	It was only when Portuguese made contact with the Kingdom of Benin that the name 'Benin' began to be used. This name is now widely used to describe the entire civilisation from AD900.

Glossary

abolitionist	A person who fights to ban something, such as slavery.
auction	A public sale, where goods are sold to the person who bids the most money.
chattel slavery	A form of enslavement, where people are kept as another person's property and are treated very badly.
colonisation	The act of sending people to live in, govern and control another country and its indigenous people, forming a colony.
emancipation	To be set free from legal, social or political restrictions, such as slavery.
enslavement	To have one's freedom taken away and to be forced to work for no money.
indigenous	To naturally exist in a country or area, rather than arriving from somewhere else.
maafa	A Swahili word meaning 'great catastrophe'. The name Maafa is used to describe the African Holocaust and the history and effects of the transatlantic slave trade.
plantation	A large estate where crops, such as sugar cane or tobacco, are grown.
trading forts	A place designed for the storage, buying and selling of goods.
West Indies	A group of islands surrounded by the North Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. More commonly known as the Caribbean.

Africa

Africa is the world's second largest continent, and is made up of 54 different countries. Today, more than one billion people live in Africa, including over 3000 different indigenous groups. As well as a diverse range of people, languages and cultures, the continent has a vast range of landscapes and habitats. Sprawling metropolises, rural villages and shanty towns can all be found here, along with grasslands, deserts, swamps and rainforests, which together support thousands of plant and animal species.



Ancient kingdoms

Humans have lived in Africa for millions of years. Great civilisations developed in every part of Africa, including the Kingdom of Benin. The Kingdom of Benin gained wealth and power by trading natural resources, such as gold and ivory, with other African civilisations and European traders. The guild of brass casters created impressive bronze plaques for the *oba*, or king, called the 'Benin Bronzes', which can be seen in museums around the world today.



Bronze plaque