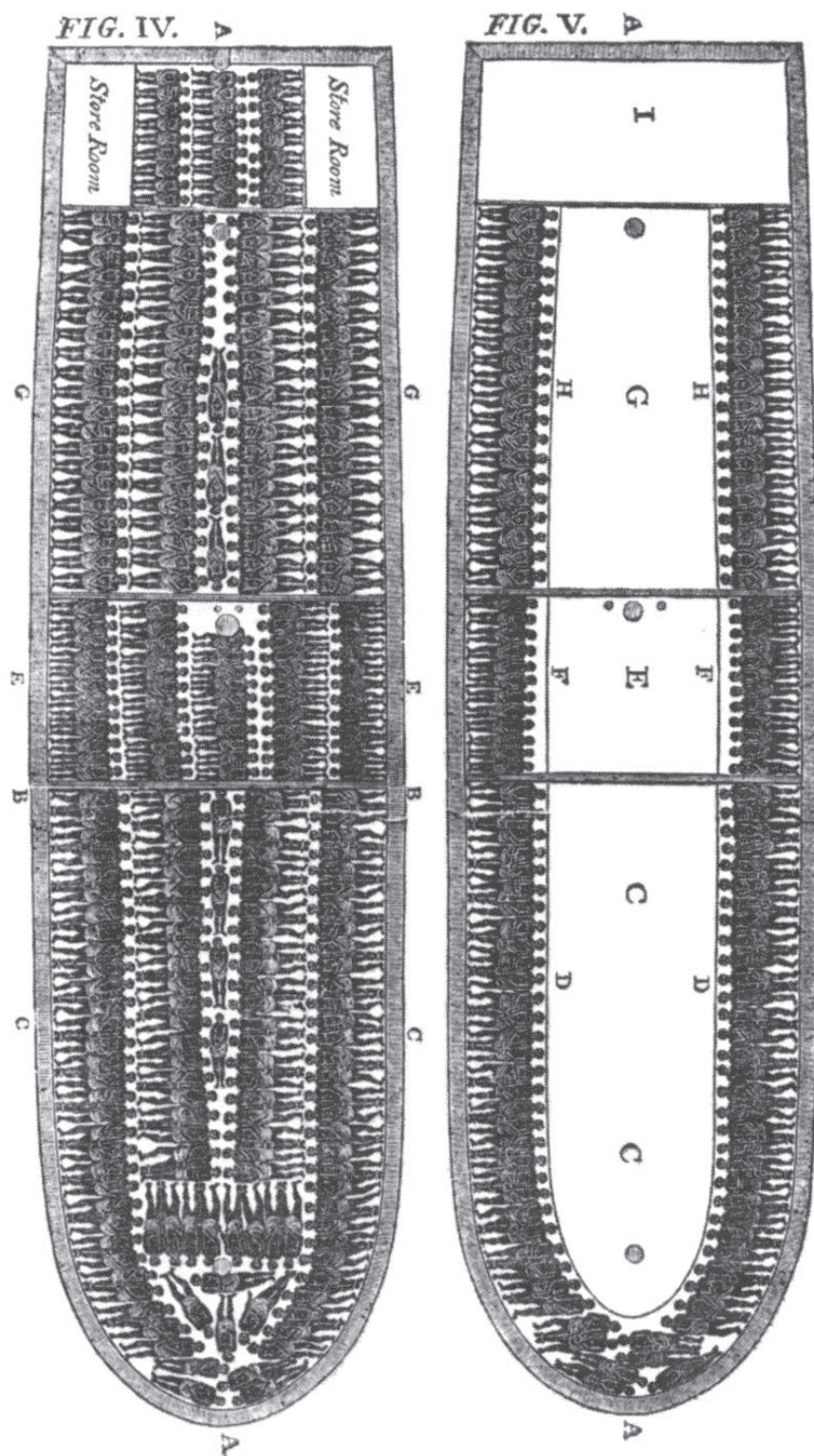


The Slave Trade

What Was It like on the Middle Passage?



The Middle Passage was the journey slaves took from Africa to the Americas.

When slaves were taken on the Middle Passage, they were packed tightly into huge ships. Little care was given to the slaves: they were considered as cargo and not humans.

The journey across the ocean would take many weeks. Slave traders knew not all the slaves they had packed would survive the journey. So, if slaves were ill they may be thrown overboard. It was not uncommon for whole rows of slaves to be thrown overboard if some were dead or ill.

Slave owners would still make a huge profit so long as half the slaves on the ship made it to the port.



What Was It like on the Middle Passage?

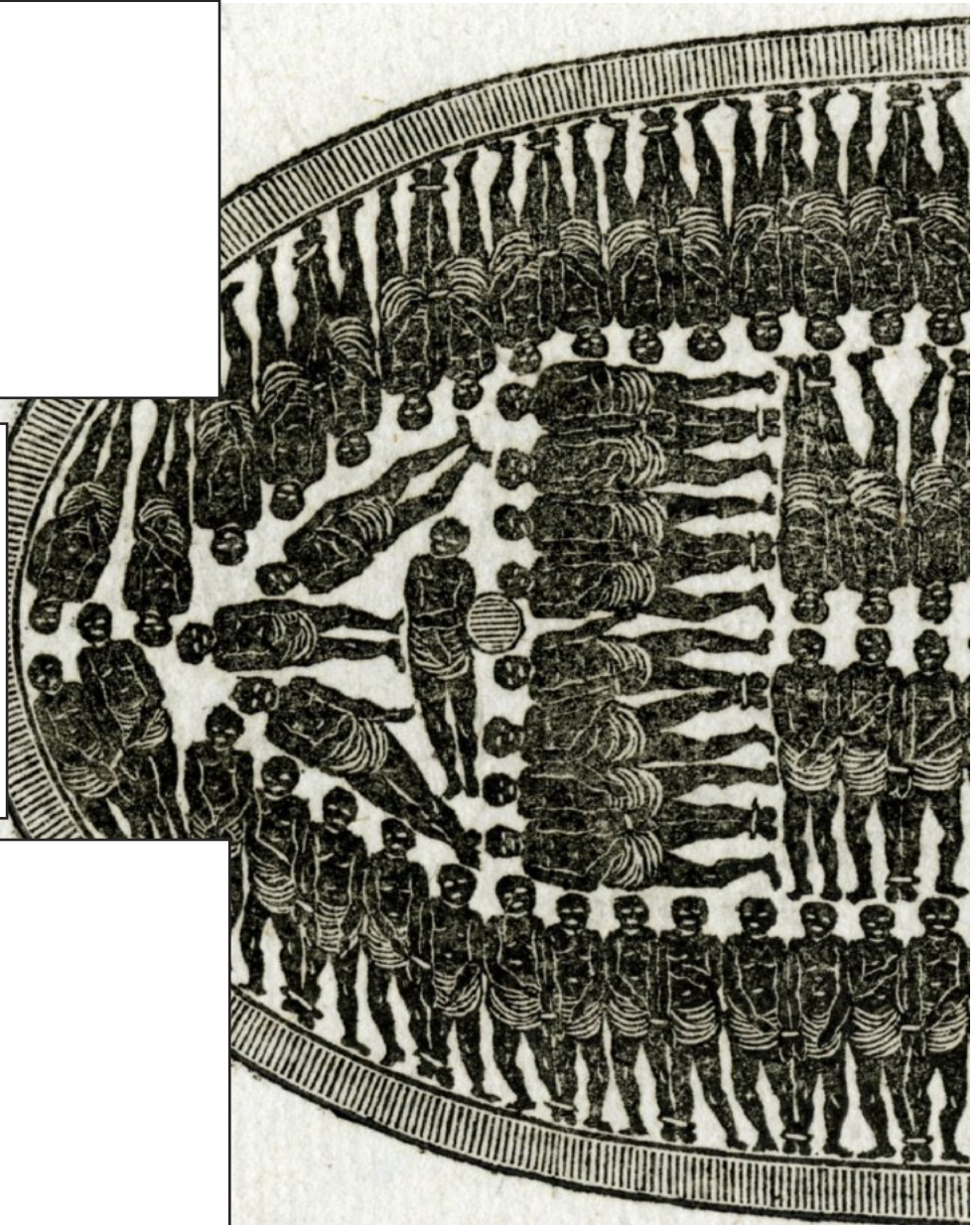
What would you hear?

What would you smell?

What would you see?

What would you feel?

What emotions might you feel on the Middle Passage?



What Was It like on the Middle Passage? Answers

What would you hear?

waves
storms
creaking of the ship
different languages
chains clanking
whips
crying/moaning

What would you smell?

salt
urine/faeces
vomit
human odour

What would you see?

bodies
wood/floorboards
Europeans

What would you feel?

wooden floorboards
cold metal chains
sweaty bodies
humid/hot
seasick – rocking boat

What emotions might you feel on the Middle Passage?

Frightened, anxious, scared, lonely, shocked, violated