

5th Grade Equiano Writing Prompt

Background: In 1619, the first Africans arrived in Jamestown. Some were indentured servants but by 1669 slavery became a law. As the colonies grew, the desire for enslaved laborers increased. By 1750, there were more enslaved Africans in Virginia than any other racial group. These enslaved Africans were part of an economic system, the Triangle of Trade, which allowed the colonies to sell their products in exchange for laborers.

Question:

What does Equiano's writings tell about the experience of Africans as part of the Triangle of Trade?

Why is Equiano included in the study of American history?

Expectations: The best papers will include:

- Two paragraphs
- Topic sentences that answer each questions
- At least three examples of historical evidence of support in each paragraph
- An analysis that explains the importance of Equiano writing.
- A concluding sentence that restates your topic sentence.
- Proofreading for spelling and grammar

For teachers: An example of analysis

The life of Equiano shows _____

Equiano's writing was important because _____

Equiano is significant because _____

Equiano pre writing activity:

Triangle of Trade

Read pages 142 and 143 with your students. After the last paragraph on pg 143 do this map activity:

Give students a blank map and guide them to draw the Triangle of Trade routes using the paragraph on pg.143. Have them put the products transported.

They can check their maps with the map on page145.

Together with your students write a class paragraph describing the Triangle of Trade, make sure each student copies the paragraph.

Strategy for understanding the reading:

For paragraph 1 read:

Pg. 144 - Who he was:

Being kidnapped:

Pg. 145 - Seeing the ships and reaction:

pg.146: When he finally meets some people that speak the same language, what questions does Equiano ask them?

If these people had no country?

Where were the women?

Had them any(women) like themselves? Why do we not see them?

How does the vessel go?

After listing his questions, have students drawn conclusions about how Equiano felt.

Pg. 146 - The brutality on the ship:

(Also, look at drawing on pg. 144)

The reactions of the Africans:

Pg. 146-148

What happened to Equiano when he arrived in the Americas?

What happened to other enslaved Africans when they arrived?

(Also refer students to chart on pg. 143, and "Born Free" on pg. 144)

What laws were used to control them?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Question	Summary or Equiano's words
<p>Who he was: When and where was he born? How old was he when kidnapped?</p> <p>What did Equiano write?</p> <p>Pg. 144 - Being kidnapped</p> <p>Pg. 145 - Seeing the ships and reaction:</p> <p>pg.146: When he finally meets some people that speak the same language, what questions does Equiano ask them?</p> <p>After listing his questions, have students drawn conclusions about how Equiano felt.</p> <p>Pg. 146 - The brutality on the ship: (Also, look at drawing on pg. 144)</p> <p>The reactions of the Africans:</p>	

<p>Pg. 146-148 What happened to Equiano when he arrived in the Americas? What happened to other enslaved Africans when they arrived? (Also refer students to chart on pg. 143, and "Born Free" on pg. 144) What laws were used to control them?</p>			
<p>Summary:</p>			

Paragraph 1 Model

Question:

What does Equiano's writings tell about the experience of Africans as part of the Triangle of Trade?

Mini-thesis (Topic sentence):

Equiano's writing tells us about the Triangle of Trade from the Africans' point of view.

Evidence A:

Equiano wrote about being kidnapped by slave traders. His hands were tied and he was taken from his home and family.

Evidence B:

He was scared when he saw the slave ship and he thought he was going to be killed when they took him on board.

Evidence C:

On the ship he was confused and asked lots of questions when he found fellow captives that spoke the same language. He describes how violently the slave traders treated people violently.

Analysis:

Equiano's writing is important because it shows us how terrible being enslaved was from a person who experienced it.

Concluding Sentence:

Slavery was a frightening, confusing, and violent experience.

Paragraph 2 Model

Question:

Why is Equiano included in the study of American history?

Mini-thesis (Topic sentence):

Equiano is included in American history because his writing helps us understand the triangle of trade for African point of view.

Evidence A:

Equiano shows us what it felt like to be kidnapped.

Evidence B:

He also describes what it was like to be crammed together on a slave ship.

Evidence C:

He also shows how a person could want to die rather live in slavery

Analysis:

Because he was one of the few enslaved Africans that learned to read and write he was able to record the experience of many Africans.

Concluding Sentence:

Without Equiano's autobiography, we may never have known how it felt to be kidnapped and taken into slavery from an African perspective.

Paragraph 1

Question:

What does Equiano's writings tell about the experience of Africans as part of the Triangle of Trade?

Mini-thesis (Topic sentence):

Evidence A:

Evidence B:

Evidence C:

Analysis:

Concluding Sentence:

Paragraph 2

Question:

Why is Equiano included in the study of American history?

Mini-thesis (Topic sentence):

Evidence A:

Evidence B:

Evidence C:

Analysis:

Concluding Sentence:
