

Year 8 History Homework – Spring Term, Black Peoples of America unit
Source sheet for Task 2 and 3

Read the Source below and use it to answer the questions in PART A (Task 2 of homework challenge) and PART B (Task 3 of homework challenge). Write in full sentences in your exercise books. Make sure you label each task clearly and support your answers with quotes from the source when needed.

The stench of the hold while we were on the coast was so intolerably loathsome, that it was dangerous to remain there for any time... But now that the whole ship's cargo were confined together, it became absolutely pestilential. The closeness of the place and the heat of the climate, added to the number of the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us.

One day, two of my wearied countrymen who were chained together, preferring death to such a life of misery, somehow made it through the nettings and jumped into the sea... I believe that many more would soon have done the same if they had not been prevented by the ship's crew, who were instantly alarmed, afterwards flogged him unmercifully for thus attempting to prefer death to slavery.

An extract from Olaudah Equiano's book: *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa the African*. Published in London, 1789.

PART A questions:

- 6) What part of becoming a slave is Olaudah Equiano describing?
- 7) How does he describe the conditions?
- 8) What did two of the slaves attempt on one day?
- 9) Why did they do this?
- 10) What was the response of the slave traders?

PART B questions:

- 1) Identify the ORIGIN of the source – who created it and when?
- 2) Does the author of the source make it more or less trustworthy? Explain your answer = Why / why not?
- 3) What TYPE of source is it (e.g. diary, documentary etc)?
- 4) What is the PURPOSE of this type of source = WHY do people create this type of source in the first place (e.g. to entertain, to educate etc)?
- 5) Does the type / purpose of the source make it more or less trustworthy? Explain your answer = Why / why not?