



Middle Passage (8.7.2)

**Background:**

In the early 1500's the first African slaves were brought to the New World by the Spanish after attempts to enslave the natives failed. In 1619 a privateer ship, the White Lion, arrived in Jamestown with nearly 20 enslaved Africans that it acquired after raiding a Portuguese slave ship bringing the first slave to British North America. For nearly two hundred years millions more would be brought across the Middle Passage as the demand for labor rose in Colonial America.

**Prompt:**

Which of these documents do you believe is the most reliable source of information about the Middle Passage?

**Task:**

In a well thought out response:

- State a claim in response to the prompt, using the prompt as a sentence stem.
- Support your claim using at least three pieces of evidence from the documents.
  - Be sure to explain why the evidence you selected supports your claim.
- Incorporate an additional piece of evidence that argues against your claim.
  - Use this additional piece of evidence as the basis for a counterclaim