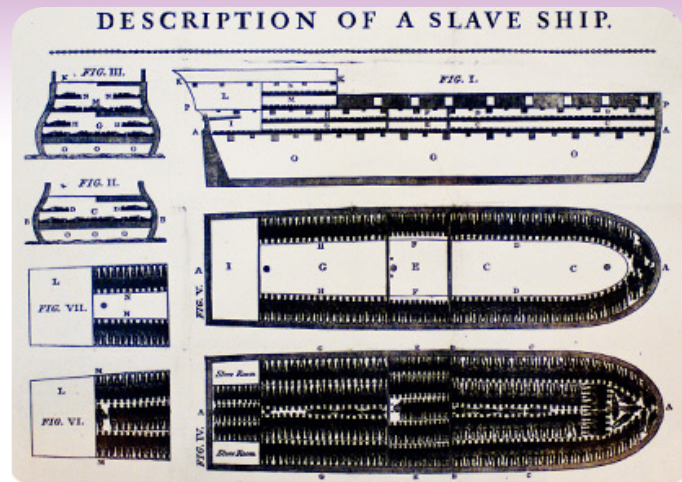


THE GRIOT MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY

BLUEPRINT SLAVE SHIP

Focus: Space, scale, cultural empathy, analysis, writing and performance

Getting Started: Can you think of a time you travelled a great distance? What mode of transportation did you take? What is the longest amount of time you have been in a vehicle without getting out? What do you find most challenging about long trips? Now, imagine travelling for months on this trip. What would you need to be able to survive such a long trip? Read the description of the slave ship and from your answer to the above question determine if you could have survived such a voyage.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Spatial Awareness and Empathy:

Use a tape measure and painters' tape or sidewalk chalk to measure the dimensions of the slave ship on your playground or parking lot. Inside the slave ship outline, draw a 6 ft x 1 ft rectangle. Remain in your designated space for the remainder of the class period as you complete the following journal entries. In your journal, describe how many different ways you can move in this size space. Describe the most comfortable position you have found. If you had to sleep in this space, how would you position yourself? If you had to stay in the space throughout an entire day, how would you keep your muscles from cramping? Imagine that your space is not only defined by the lines that you drew, but also by human bodies surrounding you. What would you find most challenging about being so close to so many people for so long. If you could have 3 items from modern times with you in that space, what would you choose and how would each item help you to cope?

MO Show-Me Standards/Goals: CA4, SS6, SS7, H/PE2; 1.6, 3.1, 3.3, 3.6

Music and Performance:

(Small group activity) Within your 6ft x 1ft rectangle, what could you use to make music? Brainstorm and list your ideas—share with class. Using some of the items listed, work with a small group to create a musical performance that includes vocal sounds and instrumental sounds. If you incorporate your own words/lyrics, let them inspire and comfort your fellow shipmates.

MO Show-Me Standards/Goals: CA6, SS6, FA1; 1.6, 2.1, 2.5