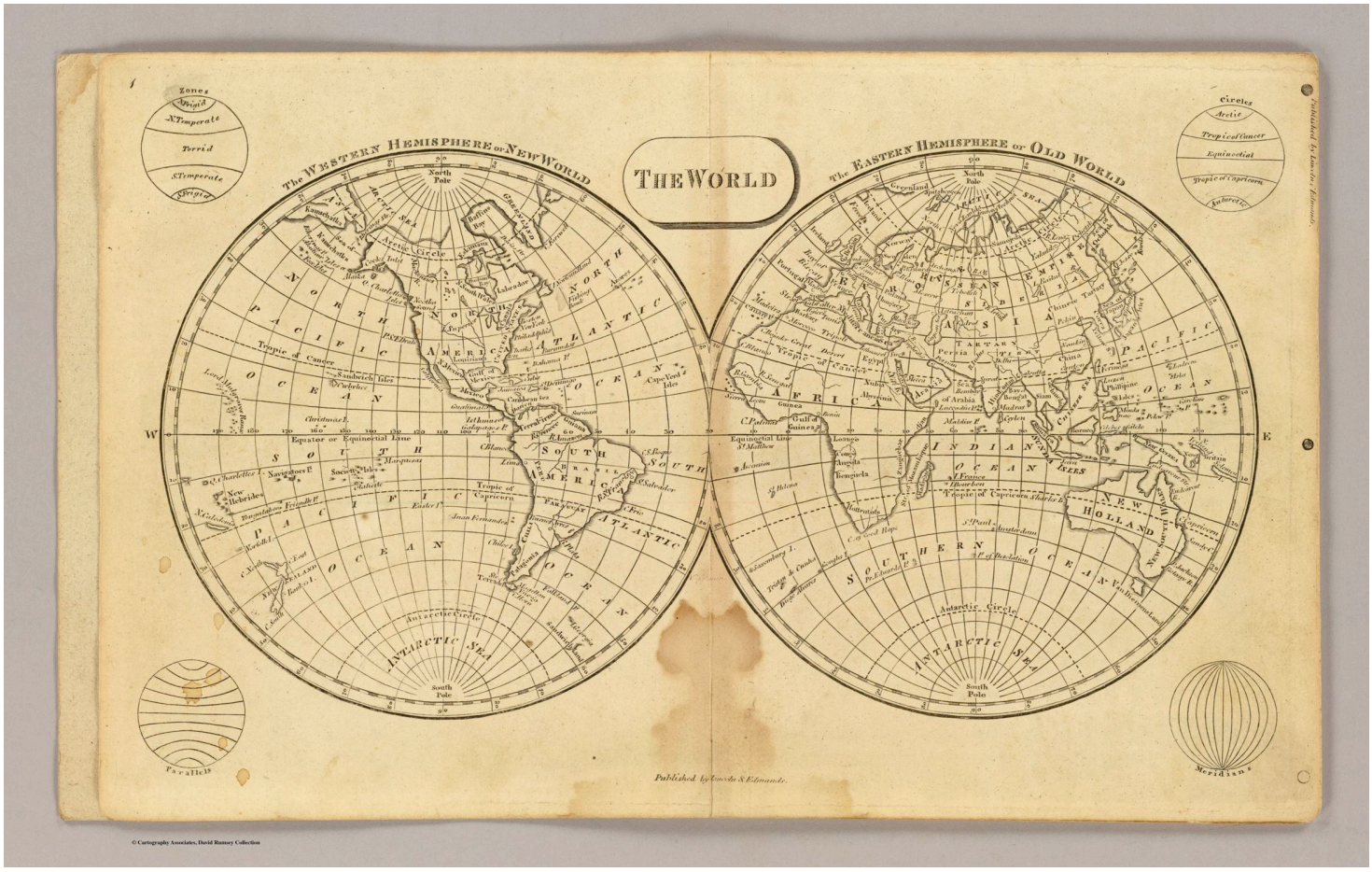


The Transatlantic Slave Trade

The transatlantic (across the Atlantic Ocean) slave trade between Africa, Europe, and the New World (North America) began in the late 1500's. Slavery, however, had begun many centuries ago. It had been found in countries such as Rome and Greece. The Africans who came to Jamestown were captured off the west coast of Africa and traded to Portuguese slave traders for rum, weapons, metals, and other items not found in Africa in the year 1619, centuries after slavery began. The Africans were then captured by a Dutch (actually English) ship in the Atlantic Ocean and taken to Jamestown and traded for food. Had they not been captured by the English ship, they would most likely have been taken to Mexico and traded as slaves in exchange for goods. Thus, this began the trading of Africans for goods in Virginia, and increased the colonies participation in the transatlantic market trade .

(Hapshaw, 70-73)

John Rolfe Letter to Sir Edwin Sandys, of the Virginia Company of London

January, 1620—"About the latter end of August, a Dutch man of Warr….[whose] Comandor's name was Capt. Jope, ……brought not anything but 20 and odd Negroes, which the Governor and Cape Merchant bought for victualle a the best and easyest rate they could. ….."

John Rolfe

Translation for a fourth grader:

January, 1620—"About the end of August [1619] a 160 ton Dutch ship [whose] commander was Captain Jope, brought with him 20 and odd negroes, which the governor of Jamestown purchased for food, ……which Captain Jope was disparately in need of." **John Rolfe**



Explanation of John Rolfe Letter

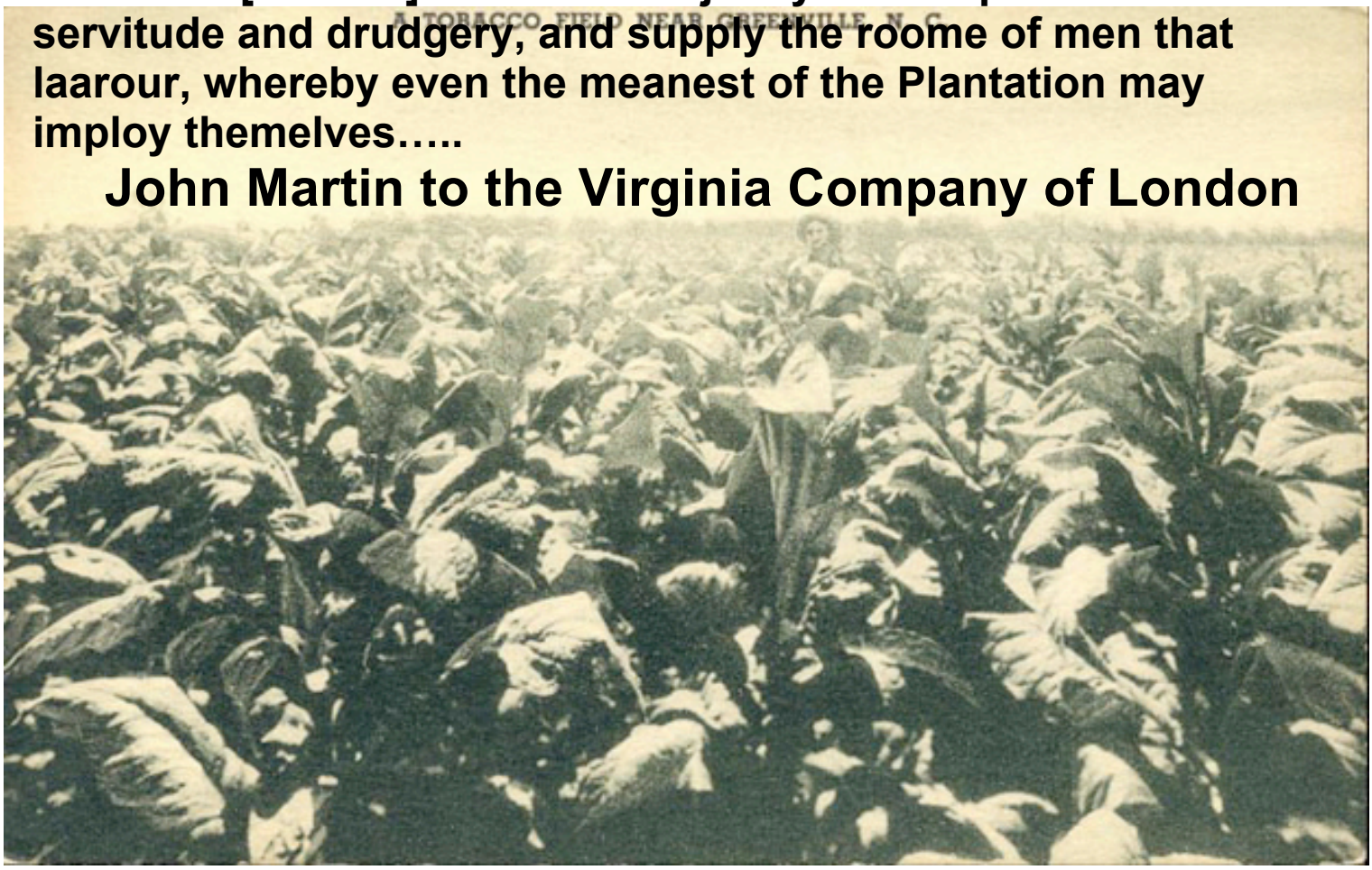
Letter—The letter to Sir Edwin Sandys, treasurer of the Virginia Company of London, told Sir Sandys that the Africans had arrived in Jamestown and had been traded for food that the captain of the ship needed. There were no slaves in Virginia, so Mr. Rolfe may have needed to know how to handle the situation.

Illustration of Jamestown Landing (pictured above)—This illustration shows the "20 or odd negroes" that entered Jamestown in August, 1619 and were described in John Rolfe's letter to Sir Edwin Sandys, the president of the Virginia Company of London. It was illustrated in 1917 by Howard Pyle, who often drew pictures for Harper's Weekly magazine.

December 15, 1622

My owne observation hath bene such as assureth me that if the Indians inhabitt not amongt vs vnder obedience And as they haue ever kept down the woode and slain the wolues, beares, and other beastes, (which are in great number) we shalbe more opressed in short tyme by their absence, then in their liueing by vs both for our own securitie as allso for our Cattle……[Indians]…..now most justly be compelled to servitude and drudgery, and supply the roome of men that laarour, whereby even the meanest of the Plantation may imploy themelves…..

John Martin to the Virginia Company of London



Fourth Grade Translation

"My own observation is that Indians help the people of Jamestown by keeping the forests neat and by killing the wolves, bears, and other animals. We should be worse off if the Indians were all dead, however it would be good if they gave us labor in the form of slaves on the plantations…" (In this way the plantations would have workers to grow tobacco.) **John Martin to the Virginia Company of London**

LISTS OF THE LIVINGE & DEAD IN VIRGINIA
Feb. 16th, 1623.

Listing from a 1623 Census Document Hening, Vol. I., p. 115.

Flourdieu Hundred. **[Sir George Yeardley's household]**

Richard Gregory,
Edward Alborn,
Thomas Dellimager,
Thomas Hack,
Anthony Jones,
Robert Guy,
William Strachey,
John Browne,
Annis Boult,
William Baker,
Theodor Beriston,
Walter Blake,
Thomas Watts,
Thomas Doughty,
George Deverell,
Richard Spurling,
John Woodson,
William Straimge,
Thomas Dune,
John Landman,
Leonard Yeats,
George Levet,
Thomas Harvay,
Thomas Filenst,
Robert Smith,
Thomas Garmder,
Thomas Gaskon,
John Olives,
Christopher Pugett,
Robert Peake,
Edward Tramorden,
Henry Linge,

Gibert Pepper,
Thomas Mimes,
John Linge,
John Gale,
Thomas Barnett,
Roger Thompson,
Ann Thompson,
Ann Doughty,
Sara Woodson,

6 Negors,
Negors,
Negors,
Negors,
Negors,
Negors,

Grivell, Pooley, Minister,
Samuel Sharp,
John Upton,
John Wilson,
Henry Rowinge,
Nathaniell Thomas,
William Barrett,
Robert Okley,
Richard Bradshaw,
Thomas Sawell,
John Bramford,

Anthony,
William,
John,
Anthony,
Negors men.

A Negors Woman.

At Warwick Squrake.[CC]

John Batt,
Henry Prinffe,
Wassell Weblin,
Petter Collins,
Christopher Reinolds,
Edward Mabin,
John Maldman,
Thomas Collins,
George Rushmore,
Thomas Spencer,
George Clarke,
Richard Bartlett,
Francis Banks,

Anthony Read,
Frances Woodson,
Henry Phillips,
Peter,
Anthony,
Frances,
Margrett,
negroes
John Bennett,
Nicholas Skinner,
John Atkins,
John Pollentin,
Rachell Pollentin,
Margrett Pollentin,

"These are the instructions to Governor Wyatt, of Jamestown, dated July 21, 1621, where…..he is directed "To make a catalogue of the people in every plantation, and their conditions; and of deaths, marriages, and christenings."
Hening, Vol. I, p. 115.

In fourth grade words:

Governor Wyatt is asked to have a census. A census was taken to COUNT people and items in Jamestown.

The actual census counted all people, houses, animals, tools, and other items. This is a partial listing of 2

John Jenkins,
Thomas Jones,

Mary, a maid,
Henry Woodward,

plantations with the living and not the dead listed.

Count the number of Africans.

- Do you see anything different about the way the Africans are written?
- How would you feel if your name was not included?



Listing of contents of Flourdieu Hundred,
home of Governor Sir George Yeardley and his wife, Temperance

From the will of Sir Yeardley, provided February 14, 1628

"To my wife, Temperance…as touching and concerning all the rest of my whole estate consisting of goods, debts, servants, negars, cattle, or any other thing or things, commodities or profits……..my will and desire is that the same be all and every part and parcel thereof sold to the best advantage for tobacco and the same to be transported ….as my wife shall find occasion, into England, and there to be *sold or turned into money*."

Governor George Yeardley was the first governor under the newly formed House of Burgesses. He was also one of two landowners who traded for the first Africans who first came to Jamestown in 1619. The Africans went to work on tobacco plantations. Nine years later, Mr. Yeardley and his friend, Mr. Abraham Peirsey, held 15 of the 23 Africans still in the colony. (Hapshaw, 104-105)



King Charles I's *A Proclamation Concerning Tobacco*

On January 6, 1630 King Charles I passed a law that did not allow tobacco production in the British Isles and forbidding the importing of tobacco from any other European colonies. **By doing this all tobacco production would be in the American colonies**. He did this because tobacco was bringing in so many taxes.

King Charles I passed a law saying all tobacco had to be grown in the American colonies and could not be purchased anywhere else. This increased the need for labor in the colonies at a time when the number of indentured servants from England was decreasing. **Fewer indentured servants meant a need for slaves.** Slaves replaced indentured servants to work on plantations. Ten slaves could grow 20,000 pounds of tobacco in a good year and they took very little to feed and clothe. Many slaves were purchased from Barbados, as well as West Africa. (Morgan, 299-304)





There are no known portraits of Antonio and Mary Johnson, but these are often used to represent them.

1650 A Biography of Anthony and Mary Johnson

Antonio, made a slave in Africa by Angolans, arrived in Virginia in **1621** and lived on the tobacco plantation of Edward Bennett. Maria arrived in 1622. They were married and changed their names to Anthony and Mary Johnson. Within four years they had 4 children. Ten years later they were given to John Upton's daughter as a wedding present, who moved them to his daughter's plantation. By 1647 Anthony and Mary had purchased 4 head of cattle. **By 1650 they were free people of color.** By purchasing 5 English indentured servants they obtained 250 acres of the best land at Nandua Creek, near Jamestown. They later purchased 2 Africans, a male and a female. After Anthony died, Mary Johnson allowed her male African to purchase his freedom. **Anthony and Mary Johnson died free Africans.** (Hashaw, 212-216)



VIRGINIA LAW

December 1662 ……[if] a Negro woman should be slave or free, be it therefore enacted and declared by this present Grand Assembly, that all children born in this country shall be held bond or free only according to the condition of the mother; and that if any Christian shall commit fornication with a Negro man or woman, he or she so offending shall pay double the fines imposed by the former act.

Translation for a fourth grader: December 1662 "All children... shall be held bond or free only according to the condition of the mother"

This means: in English common law, if the FATHER was a slave, the child would be a slave. This NEW LAW, passed in Virginia in December 1662, said that **if the MOTHER was a slave the child would be born a slave.**

Virginia Law

October 1669

Whereas the only law in force for the punishment of refractory servants resisting their master, mistress, or overseer cannot be inflicted upon Negroes, nor the obstinacy of many of them be suppressed by other than violent means, be it enacted and declared by this Grand Assembly if any slave resists his master (or other by his master's order correcting him) and by the extremity of the correction should chance to die, that his death shall not be accounted a felony, but the master (or that other person appointed by the master to punish him) be acquitted from molestation, since it cannot be presumed that premeditated malice (which alone makes murder a felony) should induce any man to destroy his own estate.

Translation for a fourth grader:

October 1669

The law is different for the punishment of servants resisting their master, mistress, or overseer, and this law is different for Africans. If a master shall correct an African and accidentally kill him, this shall not be considered a felony punishment because a master would not destroy his property on purpose**. In other words, a master could kill his slave and not be punished. This law made punishment different for Africans and other servants.**



August 1670 Virginia Court Order

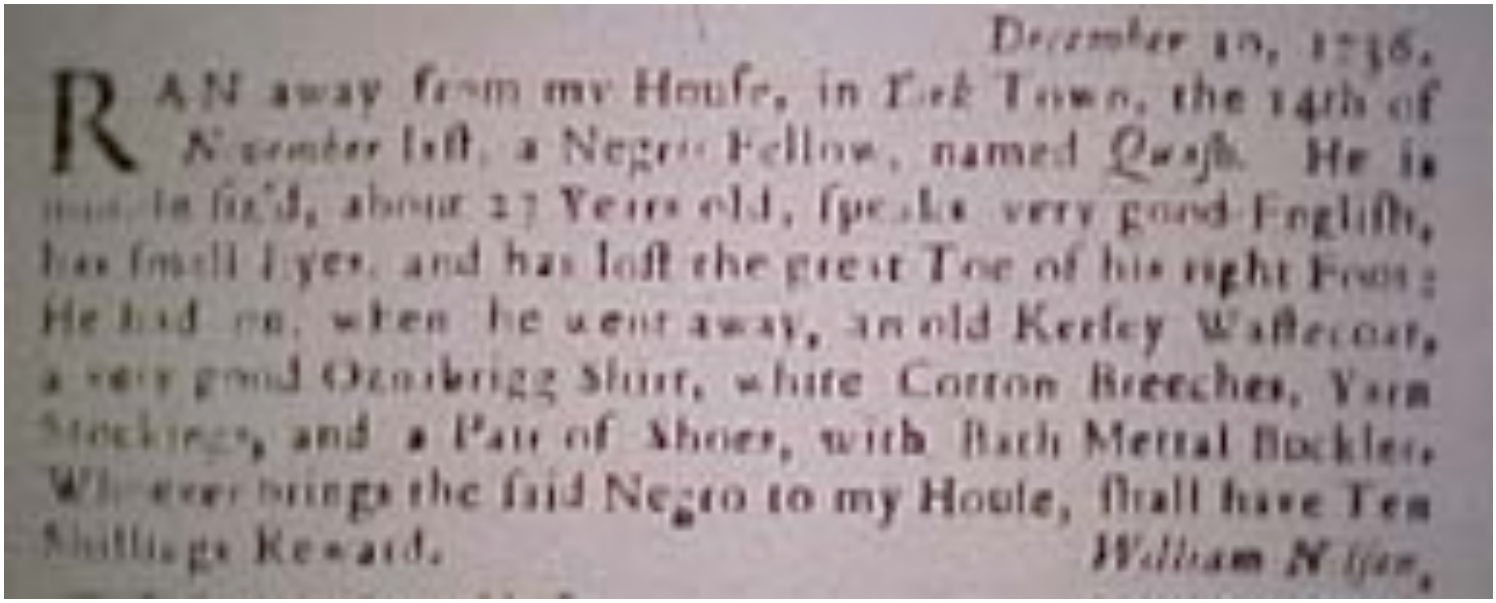
By virtue of a writt granted to me from [names listed here, which are illegible] John Stringer Escheator for the countys of Northhampton and Accomack to enquire what lands Anthonio Johnson late of Accomack County either in his life tyme. . . a jury of free. . . in the said Accomack County to enquire. . . doth declare that the said Anthony Johnson lately deceased in his life tyme was seized of fifty acres of land now in the possession of Rich. Johnson in the County of Accomack aforesaid and further that the said Anthony Johnson was a negro and by consequence an alien and for that cause the said land doth escheat to this . . . .

From the collections of the Library of Congress

Translation for a fourth grader:

August 1670 Virginia Court Order

John Stringer, from Northhamton and Accomack Counties was given land that belonged to Richard Johnson, son of the deceased (dead) Anthony and Mary Johnson. Anthony Johnson gave his son, Richard, 50 acres of land before Anthony Johnson died. This court order agreed with Mr. Stringer, saying that Richard Johnson could not own the land because it was given to him by his father, who was an African. **It went back into English hands to be given to someone else because Anthony Johnson was an African.** From the collections of the Library of Congress



December 10, 1736.

RAN away from my Houſe, in York Town, the 14th of November laſt, a Negro Fellow, named Quaſh. He is middle siz'd, about 27 Years old, ſpeaks very good Engliſh, has ſmall Eyes, and has loſt the great Toe of his right Foot: He had on, when he went away, an old Kerſey Waſtecoat, a very good Oznabrigg Shirt, white Cotton Breeches, Yarn Stockings, and a Pair of Shoes, with Bath Mettal Buckles. Whoever brings the ſaid Negro to my Houſe, ſhall have Ten Shillings Reward. William Nelſon.

Published in the Virginia Gazette, a Williamsburg, Virginia newspaper from Dec. 3 to Dec. 10, 1736.

December 10, 1736. RAN away from my House, in York Town, the 14th of November last, a Negro Fellow, named Quash. He is middle siz'd, about 27 Years old, speaks very good English, has small Eyes, and has lost the great Toe of his right Foot: He had on, when he went away, an old Kersey Wastecoat, a very good Oznabrigg Shirt, white Cotton Breeches, Yarn Stockings, and a Pair of Shoes, with Bath Mettal Buckles. Whoever brings the said Negro to my House, shall have Ten Shillings Reward. William Nelson.

Translation for a fourth grader

This runaway slave advertisement was first placed in the Virginia Gazette, a Williamsburg, Virginia newspaper on December 3, 1736. It describes the runaway as an African man named Quash, who is missing his left big toe. If someone finds him and returns him to his master, that person will receive a reward of 10 shillings. William Nelson.