V2 Chapter 6 Digital Resource

SlaveVoyages.org

The SlaveVoyages Digital Archive is a most remarkable academic undertaking. Building on the work of W. E. B. Du Bois at Harvard University in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, scholars from around the Atlantic world have collaborated on constructing a database of more than 30,000 Atlantic slaving voyages. The database is open to everyone and offers a great variety of search fields and options. It is no hyperbole to say that it has transformed our understanding of the Atlantic slave trade.

First, watch this animated time-lapse representation of 30,745 slaving voyages running from 1514 to 1865. Note that this total represents only about 75 percent of the voyages that we know to have taken place.

Next, watch this animated 3-D Representation of the slave ship *L'Aurore*.

Finally, look over these maps representing the scope and trajectories of the Atlantic slave trade.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why were so many enslaved Africans imported into the Caribbean and Brazil?

2. Where did captives come from in Africa?

3. What were shipboard conditions like?

4. What forms of suffering would captives be forced to endure?

5. What was necessary for human beings to be willing to so horribly treat other human beings?