**The Middle Passage: First-hand accounts**

**Directions: Read each passage and answer the corresponding questions. Be sure to restate the question and put your answer *in your own words.***

Document 1: Zamba Zembola, was the son of a king of a small community in the Congo, When he was in his early twenties he was invited by a Captain to accompany him to America on his slave ship. After arriving in America, he was kidnapped and sold as a slave). He later wrote and published his autobiography in 1849, The Life and Adventures of Zamba and African Slave.

*“After being about 15 days out to sea a heavy squall (gust of wind) struck the ship. The poor slaves below, altogether unprepared for such an occurrence, were mostly thrown to the side, where they lay heaped on the top of each other; their fetters(chains) rendered many of them helpless, and before they could be arranged in their proper places, and relieved from their pressure on each other, it was found that 15 of them were smothered or crushed to death. The captain seemed considerably vexed(worried); but the only grievance to him was the sudden loss of some five or six thousand dollars.”*

1. What happened to the slaves aboard this ship?

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1. How did the captain of the ship react to the death of the slaves?

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1. What does this document show us about the treatment of African slaves aboard slave ships?

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Document 2: Olaudah Equiano, was captured and sold as a slave. He later earned his freedom, and wrote his memoir which was published in 1789, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African.

*I was soon put down under the decks, and there I received such a greeting in my nostrils as I had never experienced in my life; so that, with the loathsomeness of the stench, and crying together, I became so sick and low that I was not able to eat, nor had I the least desire to taste anything. I now wished for the last friend, death, to relieve me; but soon, to my grief, two of the white men offered me eatables; and, on my refusing to eat, one of them held me fast by the hands, and laid me across, I think, the windlass, and tied my feet, while the other flogged me severely…..The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, added to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us. The air soon became unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells, and brought on a sickness among the slaves, of which many died. The wretched situation was again aggravated by the chains, now unsupportable, and the filth of the necessary tubs, into which the children often fell, and were almost suffocated. The shrieks of the women, and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole scene of horror almost inconceivable.*

1. Name three conditions of the slave ship that Equiano described:

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1. What happened when Equiano refused to eat?

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