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**Notes from the Author:**

This lesson as it is written is rather long and pieces of it can be used, or it can be used in its entirety. I used this lesson as an introduction to Slavery in the US (hence the name) to be delivered as part of a US history I course. It has some simple math calculations in it and gets the kids out of their seats in an effort to see how many people can fit into a small space to get an idea of how cramped the trip would have been for the slaves. There are also readings on handouts and visuals available on a PowerPoint.

**Objectives**

- Students will record how many people can fit into a given space at one time.
- Students will get a physical impression of how cramped conditions were on slave vessels.
- Students will identify the initial reason for the start of the slave trade to the United States and why such a large number of slaves were needed.

**Materials**

- USHistoryPPoint10.1.1SlaveryInAmerica.ppt
- USHistoryHandout10.1.2ConditionsAboardTheFeloz.doc
- Other visuals if needed or if time permits
  - USHistoryTransparency3.2.1 Map showing the islands of the Caribbean.
  - USHistoryTransparency3.2.2SlaveAuction
  - USHistoryTransparency3.2.3SlaveQuarters

**Procedures and Strategies**

- 1) Inform students that we will be spending a few days studying Slavery
  - a) To make it relevant to student lives, discuss Spanish speakers can thank Spain for enslaving their ancestors and teaching them their language.
    - b) Two big causes are Racism and Greed**
- 2) Begin ppoint
  - a) It is a question and answer format. (questions come up and students can provide answers)
  - b) Have students write down pertinent items if desired.
- 3) When Ppoint is through, tape off a 4 by 4 ft square, and invite students to come up and stand in the square.
  - a) Record on the board how many students fit in the square, to gather data on slave ship conditions.

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- 4) When this is done, handout USHistoryHandout10.1.2ConditionsAboardTheFeloz.doc, and read it with the students, or have them read it to themselves.
  - 5) Ask questions about the reading, clarifying and discussing as you go.
  - 6) At the end lead the students through a math problem wherein the actual people per square foot on the Feloz will be reached.
  - 7) Students will then have a feel of how cramped things were on a slaver.

### **Calculations of slaves per square foot**

#### **8) 4X4 space = 16 sq feet**

- a) **Divide how many people fit into the space into 16 to reach people per SQ foot**

#### **9) Feloz**

##### **a) Compartment one(ask what the dimensions were)**

- i) **Smaller of the two was 16X18 multiplied = 288 SQ Feet**
- ii) **How many slaves were squeezed into that space? 266 divided into 288 = 1.25 per SQ Foot**
- iii) **Compare with SQ Ft per person measured above.**

##### **b) Compartment two (ask what the dimensions were)**

- i) **40X21 multiplied equals 840 SQ Ft**
- ii) **How many slaves were squeezed into that space? 336 divided into 840 = 2.5 per SQ Foot**
- iii) **Compare with SQ Ft per person measured above.**

### ***Closing***

Some sort of writing assignment could be assigned here or completed as a homework assignment.