8<sup>th</sup> Grade American Studies Unit 2 – Colonization to Independence Topic: Beginnings of Slavery in the Americas (58-61) **Directions:** Using the text, please complete the following activity.

Name	KEY_	
Date		
Period		

## The Need For A New Labor Source

What happened to most of the Native American population after coming into contact with European settlers?

They died as a result of exposure to disease (lacked immunity)

Describe Plantation Agriculture

Mainstay of the colonial economic structure Large farms that required large, cheap labor source Tobacco, sugar

What did some people think was the solution to the labor problem in the Americas?

Begin importing slave labor from West Africa (they had already developed immunity to many European diseases)

## The Slave Trade

What happened in Spain in 1510?

The Spanish government LEGALIZED the sale of slaves in its colonies

What was the Middle Passage?

The voyage across the Atlantic Ocean between Africa & the Americas that enslaved Africans were forced to endure

Describe the conditions of the trans-Atlantic journey from Africa to the Americas

Packed into cargo ships Chained together Very tight, cramped spaces Disease, malnutrition, many died

What was the **African Diaspora**?

The scattering of enslaved Africans throughout the New World

## Treatment of Enslaved Persons

What were some of the types of work that slaves were forced to do?

Worked on sugar plantations (Caribbean) Worked in the mines of Peru Physically demanding labor, dangerous

Describe some of the harsh conditions faced by slaves once they were brought to the Americas.

Laws were developed that gave slaves very few rights Slaveholders could not be charged with murder if he killed a slave Faced harsh penalties for minor offenses Whippings. Beatings, torture

## Slave Culture In The Americas

Importance of Family

Provided a refuge; escape from the harsh reality of "slave life"

Challenges -

Families were broken apart
Difficult to maintain stable familles

Importance of Religion

Another refuge for slaves
Provided a form of expression
Primarily Christian, but included traditional African customs
Gave slaves a sense of hope & self-worth
Spirituals – free-form religious songs

Other ways in slaves tried to cope [deal] with hardships

Folktales, songs, traditional dance, art, all influenced by African customs