

CHAPTER

15

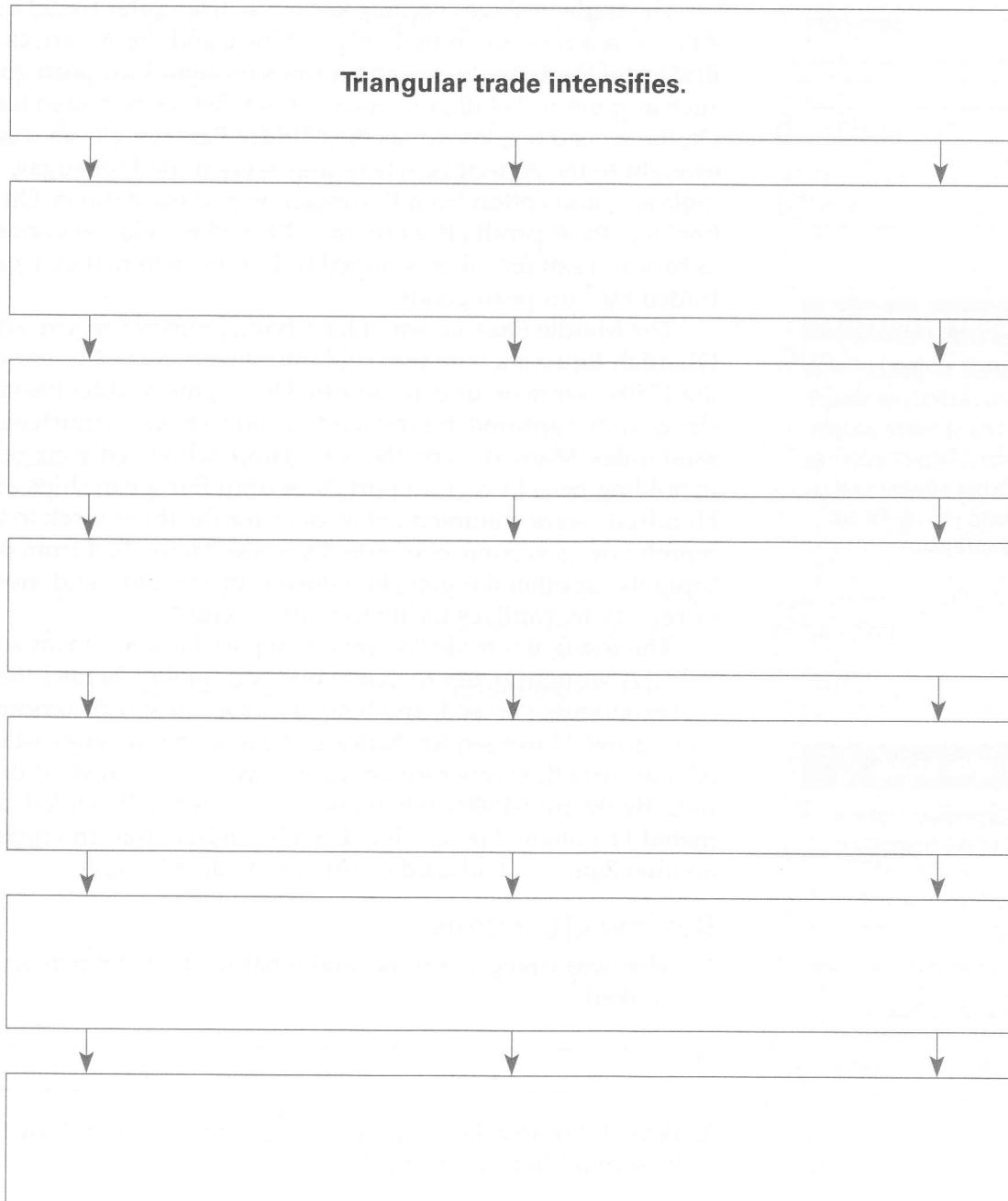
SECTION 4

Note Taking Study Guide

THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Focus Question: How did the Atlantic slave trade shape the lives and economies of Africans and Europeans?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following flowchart to record the sequence of events that led to millions of Africans being brought to the Americas.



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SECTION 4

Section Summary

THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

READING CHECK

Which European power was the first to begin importing slaves to its colonies in the Americas?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

In the underlined sentence, what does the word *restrained* mean? Think about where these people were *restrained*. What does that suggest? Use the answer to this question to help you figure out what *restrained* means.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence List the three "legs" of the triangular trade.

Empires grew in the 1500s, and trade increased between the Americas and other parts of the world. Spain was the first major power to import slaves into its South American colonies, but slave trade grew as other European powers established colonies. Slave labor became a way to gain greater profits, but at the expense of millions of lives.

The trade of slaves became known as **triangular trade**, a series of Atlantic sea routes joining Europe, Africa, and the Americas. On the first leg of the triangle, merchant ships brought European goods, such as guns and cloth, to Africa, where they were traded for slaves. On the second leg, known as the **Middle Passage**, slaves were brought to the Americas, where they were traded for sugar, molasses, and cotton from European-owned plantations. On the final leg, these products were traded for other colonial goods, such as furs and salt fish, then shipped to Europe, where they were traded for European goods.

The Middle Passage was a horrifying journey for Africans. **Olaudah Equiano**, who was sold into slavery as an 11-year-old in the 1750s, wrote of his experiences. During the Middle Passage, slaves were captured, bound, and forced to walk as much as a thousand miles. Many died on the way. Those who lived were restrained in holding pens in African port cities until European ships arrived. Hundreds were crammed below deck for the three-week to three-month voyages. Some committed suicide. Many died from disease, brutality, or other dangers, like storms, pirate raids, and **mutinies**, or revolts, by captives trying to return home.

The triangular trade continued, in part, because it was so profitable. It brought riches to merchants and traders, helped the colonial economies succeed, and helped European and American port cities grow. However, for Africans the outcome was devastating. African societies were torn apart, and lives were cut short or brutalized. By the mid-1800s, when the slave trade finally ended, an estimated 11 million Africans had been brought to the Americas, and another 2 million had died during the Middle Passage.

Review Questions

1. What was triangular trade, and what were the three main areas it linked?

2. Why did triangular trade continue, even though it devastated the lives of millions of people?
