LESSON PLAN – living conditions for captives during the Middle Passage

**--For initial part of class, go through powerpoint**

Learning intentions (on powerpoint)

Today I will learn …

* How to analyse and evaluate sources.
* How to work in groups and use teamwork to reach a conclusion.

I know I will be successful if I can:

* + Imagine how it felt to be a captive slave
  + Describe the conditions of the middle passage slave ships
  + Explain why conditions were so bad aboard these ships

Starter exercise: space on a slave ship

1. On Thomson Majesty cruise ship (launched 2012), the size of a small cabin for a couple of people measures 3 square meters [Demonstrate these dimensions to class.] On a late-18th century slave ship, how much room do you think people had?

*Answer: 1.4x6 ft for Men, 1.4x5ft for Women, 1x5ft for boys, 1x4.6ft for girls [on powerpoint, show ‘Brookes’ layout, and quotes about lack-of-room (sources A + B)*

1. A Mediterranean cruise on the Thomson Majesty lasts a fortnight. How long do you think a journey on a slave ship would last?

*Answer: 1-3 months*

Main exercise: conditions on a slave ship

1. [Play audio of Mr. Norris’ pro-slavery report to the Privy Council in 1789. As it’s playing, hand out the source sheet to pupils. Then play the audio a second time, and ask the class to note down in bullet points what Mr. Norris is saying.] <http://gallery.nen.gov.uk/audio75763-abolition.html>
2. Read and discuss these descriptions [sources B, C, D, E] of the living conditions below deck, and answer the accompanying questions. Questions 1-5 should be done on your own, and questions 6-7 can be done in groups of four people.

Final thoughts [to lead on to next lesson, re. abolitionists]

1. Most of today’s sources have been taken from *Abstract of the evidence…*, (1791) and are from the perspective of abolitionists petitioning parliament to end the slave trade. Eventually their efforts succeeded when the British parliament banned the slave trade in 1807. Given the horrific conditions outlined in this material, why do you think it took so long for this to happen?
2. In the late 18th century, abolitionists only sought to end the slave trade, but not the institution of slavery itself. It was only after the trade was ended in 1807 that abolitionists began to campaign against slavery (which was eventually abolished in 1834-8). Why do you think they did this?