

CHAPTER 4 Section 3 (pages 115-119)

The Atlantic Slave Trade

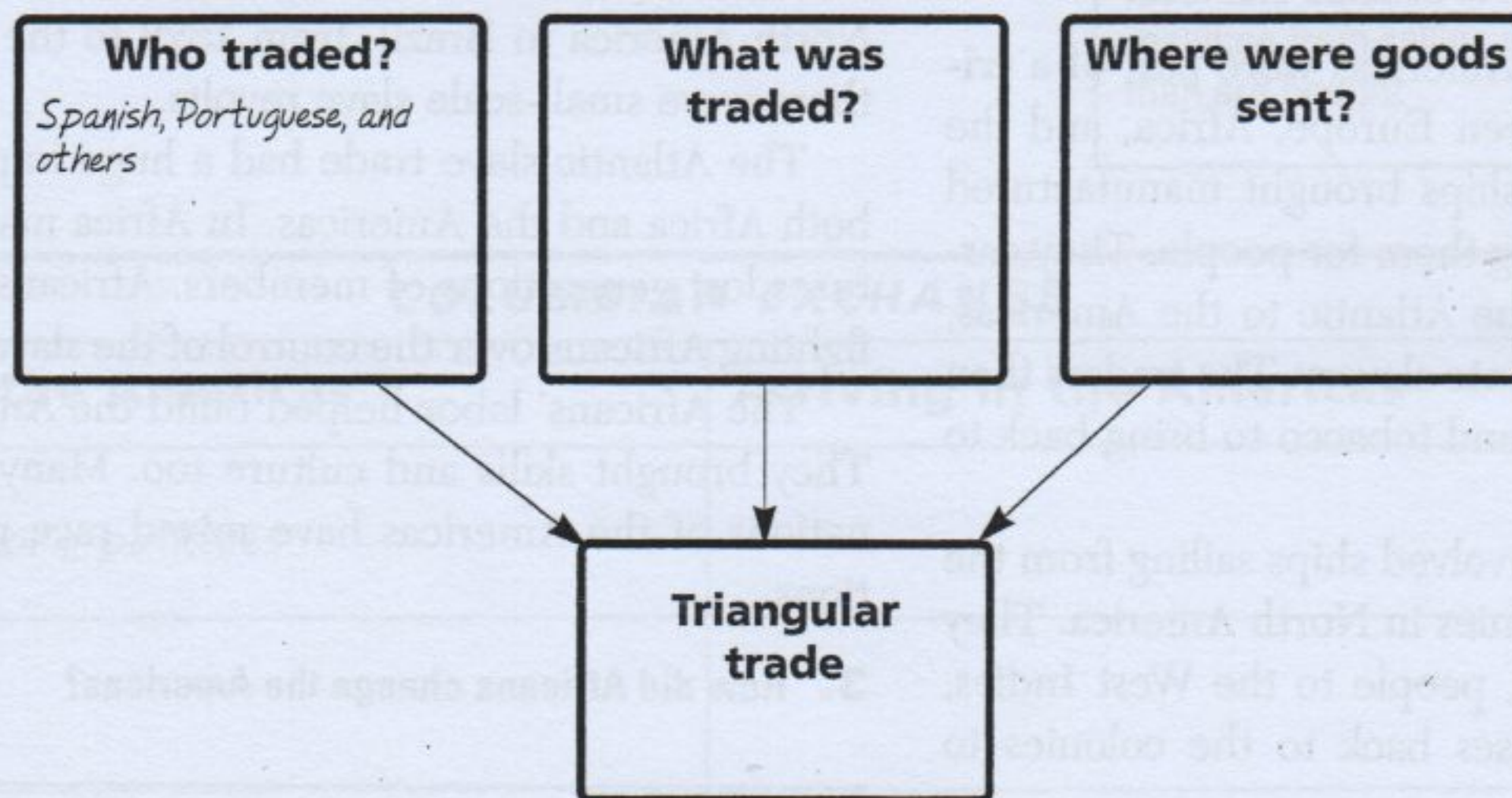
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you saw how different European nations settled in North America.

In this section, you will read about the slave trade that brought Africans to the Americas.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on the triangular trade system.



TERMS AND NAMES

Atlantic slave trade Buying and selling of Africans for work in the Americas

triangular trade European trade between the Americas, Africa, and Europe involving slaves and other goods

middle passage Voyage that brought captured Africans to the West Indies and the Americas

The Evolution of African Slavery

(pages 115-117)

What was the Atlantic slave trade?

Slavery has had a long history in Africa and in the world. For most of that history in Africa, though, large numbers of people had not been enslaved. That changed in the 600s, when Muslim traders started to take many slaves to Southwest Asia.

Most worked as servants, and they did have certain rights. Also, the sons and daughters of slaves were considered to be free. The European slave trade that began in the 1500s was larger. The enslaved Africans also were treated far more harshly.

In the Americas, Europeans first used Native Americans to work farms and mines. When the native peoples began dying from disease, the Europeans brought in Africans. The buying and selling of Africans for work in the Americas became known as the **Atlantic slave trade**. From 1500 to 1870, when the slave trade in the Americas finally ended, about 9.5 million Africans had been *imported* as slaves.

The Spanish first began the practice of bringing Africans to the Americas. However, the Portuguese increased the demand for slaves. They were looking for workers for their sugar plantations in Brazil.

Other European colonies also brought slaves to