

2.5 BRAZIL AND THE SLAVE TRADE

Analyze the Role of Slavery in Brazil

Read the passage below about Brazil's economy from the 1500s through the 1800s. Then use the graph to complete the activity.

Brazil's Economic Growth

The Sugar Boom Brazil's economy went through a series of growth periods called booms. The first was the sugar boom. After the Portuguese introduced sugarcane to Brazil in the 1500s, it quickly became the colony's leading cash crop. By 1600, Brazil was exporting 16,000 tons of sugar each year. Sugar remained the top export throughout the 1600s.

The Gold Boom The discovery of gold in 1695 set off the next economic boom. By the 1730s, Brazil's mines held more than 100,000 African slaves. In the search for gold, diamonds were also discovered. Gold and diamond mining fueled economic growth for a century.

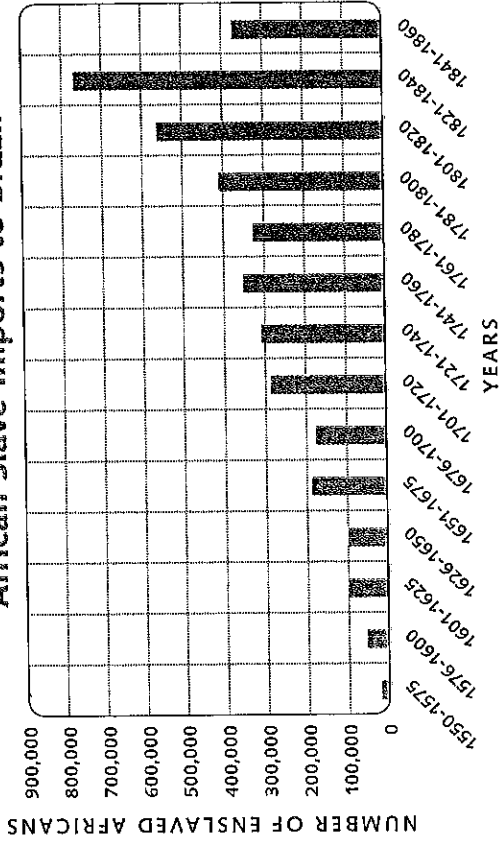
The Coffee Boom The third economic boom came about with the introduction of coffee in the early 1800s. Coffee plantations expanded rapidly in southeastern Brazil. By the middle of the century, coffee was Brazil's top export. It dominated the economy for the rest of the 1800s.

The Role of Slavery Brazil's gold mines and sugar and coffee plantations needed large numbers of slaves. Smaller landowners also used slave labor to raise cattle and to grow tobacco and cotton. Brazil's slave population brought riches to a small group of Portuguese families. Brazil banned the trade of slaves in 1850, and slavery itself was abolished in 1888.

- Analyze Cause and Effect** On the graph, circle the years that mark the sugar and gold booms. Describe the effect of those booms on slave imports.

Use with South America Geography & History, Section 2.5, in your textbook.

Go to Interactive Whiteboard GeoActivities at myNGconnect.com to complete this activity online.

African Slave Imports to Brazil

Source: *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, Herbert S. Klein, Cambridge University Press, 2006

- Interpret Graphs** About how many more slaves were brought to Brazil in the years 1821–1840 than in the previous 20-year period? What explains this jump in slave imports?

- Make Generalizations** Based on this information, how would you describe the role of slavery in the Brazilian economy during this period of Brazil's history?