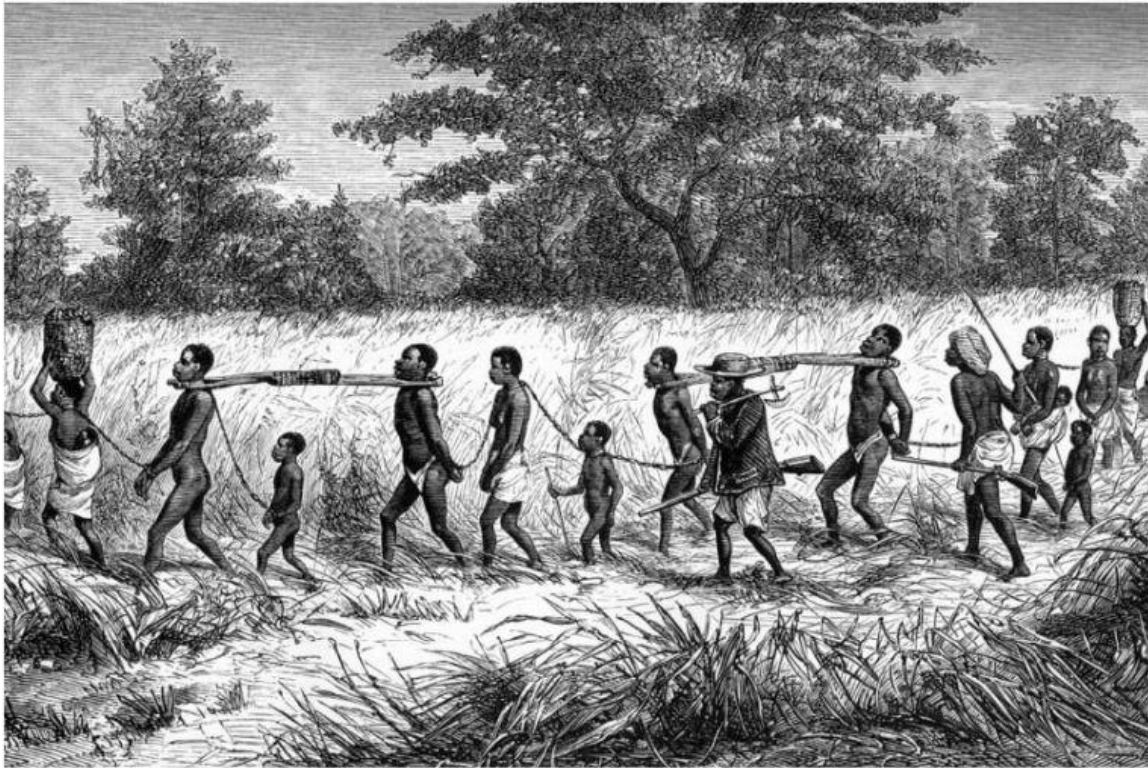


Name: _____

Interdisciplinary Unit: The Africans



The African people came to The Bahamas from **Africa**. They did not want to come. Cruel people took them away from their homes forcefully. Their hands and ankles were chained. They were put in ships. Many Africans died on the long journey to our islands. When the Africans arrived, they were auctioned off, or sold at **Vendue House** in New Providence. The slaves were made to work on large farms called **plantations**. The Africans had to do all the hard work. **If they refused, they were beaten or killed**. They had to work all day, and they were never paid.

They settled in **Congo Town in Andros** or **Congo Town in Fox Hill**. These towns were renamed after the Congo regions in West Africa. This is one way the slaves remembered where they came from.

Many of the slaves came from West and Central Africa. They brought with them many traditions.

One thing was their way of preparing food. From Nigeria, they brought **dodo** which is fried plantains. From Gambia they brought **superkanj** which is okra soup.



Dodo or fried plantains



Superkanj or Okra Soup

Another tradition was the **Asue** which is a way of saving money.

Our Junkanoo is also something the Africans brought with them. This is a West African tradition. The costumes and musical instruments used in Junkanoo are similar to those used in celebrations in West Africa.

After many years, people from many different countries realized that slavery was wrong. These people were called **abolitionists**. The slaves won their freedom in 1834. It was called **emancipation**. We remember this day the first Monday in August every year.