

Name:

Date:

Amistad Viewing Guide

1. Who is it that does the kidnapping? Why would they do this?

2. Explain the context around the slave ship. Where is it going? Who “owns” it?



3. The year is 1839. What has been happening in the Americas?

4. What types of goods, according to the Triangular Trade, would the Spanish get for the slaves? What types of goods would they use to buy the slaves in Africa?

5. What part of Africa did most of the slaves come from? What happened to those areas during and after slavery?
(Finish this at the end of the movie)

6. The story of the Amistad begins in 1839. The slave trade is illegal in many parts of the world but some slave traders paid no attention to the laws. In western Africa, Africans often kidnap their own to sell as slaves in other parts of the world. What could you add to that last statement to explain or clarify it?

7. Why did so many slaves die on the Middle Passage?

8. What were the slaves used for in the US? Cuba? Brazil?

9. Why did the US capture the Amistad? What did they hope to gain?

10. Why were the Africans at such a disadvantage in this case? How does this illustrate the reason slaves were taken from Africa rather than from Native American populations?

11. Explain, overall, what reasons Europeans/Americans had for using Africans as slaves.

12. On what charges did the Africans go to trial?

13. How does this movie portray Africans compared to Americans of African descent? Do you think the character portrayed by Morgan Freeman is historically accurate?

14. Summarize the arguments for the abolition of slavery at this time and the arguments for allowing slavery to continue.

15. How did the Supreme Court settle this famous case?

16. Do you think the movie portrays the states rights/ abolitionist debate accurately? Explain.

17. Is this movie American History or World History? How would you explain it differently as a part of the world rather than US history?

18. Based on this movie: why did slavery as we understand it begin? What led to its end?