




# Transatlantic Trade

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1607-1754



# Mercantilism

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- Throughout both the 17th and 18th centuries, the British controlled colonial trade through the Navigation Acts.
- Navigation Acts (1660): These laws restricted colonial trade, so that all of the raw materials coming from the thirteen colonies and other overseas possessions went only to ports in the British Empire.
- The Molasses Act (1733): This British law that imposed a tax on molasses, sugar, and rum imported from non-British foreign colonies into the North American colonies.
- Mercantilism: A policy which utilized raw materials from colonies to enrich the ruling country.
- Triangular Trade: (Example) A ship with rum from an American port would sail to West Africa, exchange their goods for slaves and drop them off in the Caribbean. In the Caribbean, the same ship would then carry molasses back to the American port (to distill more rum).

# Exit Ticket Item:

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## Thought Questions:

- \* Why were the British colonies in North America such a valuable component of the British Empire?
- \* How might the system of trade have created tensions between the colonists and the British government?