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Grade level: 5

Primary Source Citation: “To be sold, on board the ship Bance Island, ... negroes, just arrived from the Windward & Rice Coast.” Newspaper advertisement from the 1780s(?) for the sale of slaves at Ashley Ferry outside of Charleston, South Carolina. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LOT 4422-A-1 [item] [P&P], <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98503865/>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the advertisement located at the above line while answering the questions below in order. These questions will prepare students to think critically when observing primary source documents, particularly photographs.

Level I: Description

- 1 What is the purpose of the announcement?
- 2 Where and when does the sale seem to be happening?
- 3 What does the author of the announcement want everyone to know about the slaves to be sold?

Level II: Interpretation

- 1 Who was the intended target group that this announcement hoped to reach?
- 2 How does the author of the announcement describe the Africans?

Level III: Analysis

- 1 Describe the most important thing someone attending this sale might be concerned with.
- 2 Describe something that the sale announcement does not tell you about the Africans.

TO BE SOLD on board the
Ship Essex bound on Tuesday the 6th
of May next, at *Stony Ferry*, a choice
cargo of about 150 fine healthy



NEGROES,

just arrived from the
Windward & Rice Coast.



—The utmost care has
already been taken, and
shall be continued, to keep them free from
the least danger of being infected with the
SMALL-POX, no boat having been on
board, and all other communication with
people from *Gloria-Texas* prevented.

Austin, Laurins, & Appleby.

N. B. Full particulars of the above Negroes have had the
SMALL-POX in their own Country.