An Unscientific and Outdated Survey of MCAS Questions on the Enslavement and Conscription of Black and Brown Peoples in re America and the World, and Being Provided for the Purpose of Comparison with 2017 PARRC History and Social Sciences of Which I have Heard but about Which I am Likely to be Considerably Wrong.

The Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks has:

Standard: 5.12 - Explain the causes of the establishment of slavery in North America. Describe the harsh conditions of the Middle Passage and slave life, and the responses of slaves to their condition. Describe the life of free African Americans in the colonies. (H, G, E, C)

An MCAS Question Search for <u>Slavery</u> or all years, all grades, all question types, all frameworks, all strands and all topics comes up with:

There are no questions matching your selected criteria.

• You may have selected a subject/grade combination for which the MCAS is not offered.

<u>View a list of the tests administered by grade and year.</u>

- You may have searched for questions that are not yet available in the database.
- You may have searched for questions that have been removed from the database (the Department makes released MCAS test questions available online for five years only).
- Your criteria may be too narrow; try a broader search.

Somewhere, I was able to locate one question from 2008 based on Standard 5:12. It appears that this one question is all that is asked about the provided reading.

2008 Spring Release, History and Social Science - Grade 5 Question 12: Multiple-Choice

Reporting Category: American History (to 1820) Standard: 5.12 - Explain the causes of the establishment of slavery in NorthAmerica. Describe the harsh conditions of the Middle Passage and slave life, and the responses of slaves to their condition. Describe the life of free African Americans in the colonies. (H, G, E, C)

"There are no questions matching your selected criteria" that is, "SLAVERY"

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part1/1p277.html "The captives were about to embark on the infamous Middle Passage, so called because it was the middle leg of a three-part voyage -- a voyage that began and ended in Europe. The first leg of the voyage carried a cargo that often included iron, cloth, brandy, firearms, and gunpowder. Upon landing on Africa's "slave coast," the cargo was exchanged for Africans. Fully loaded with its human cargo, the ship set sail for the Americas, where the slaves were exchanged for sugar, tobacco, or some other product. The final leg brought the ship back to Europe."

Which of the following names is often given to the journey of Africans who were brought to the Americas as slaves?

- A. the Middle Passage
- **B.** the Great Migration
- **C.** the Northwest Passage
- **D.** the Westward Expansion

Somewhere, I was able to locate one other question from 2008 based on Standard 5:12. It appears that this one question is all that is asked about the provided reading.

Reporting Category: American History (to 1820) for Grade 5 The Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks has: Standard: 5.12 - Explain the causes of the establishment of slavery in North America. Describe the harsh conditions of the Middle Passage and slave life, and the responses of slaves to their condition. Describe the life of free African Americans in the colonies. (H, G, E, C)

Explain the causes of the establishment of slavery in North America.

The Middle Passage: "The slaves were branded with hot irons and restrained with shackles. Their "living quarters" was often a deck within the ship that had less than five feet of headroom -- and throughout a large portion of the deck, sleeping shelves cut this limited amount of headroom in half.4 Lack of standing headroom was the least of the slaves' problems, though. With 300 to 400 people packed in a tiny area5 -- an area with little ventilation and, in some cases, not even enough space to place buckets for human waste -- disease was prevalent. According to Equiano, "The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, added to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us. This produced copious perspirations, so that the air soon became unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells, and brought on a sickness among the slaves, of which many died.""

Describe the harsh conditions of the Middle Passage and slave life, and the responses of slaves to their condition.

Standard 5.2: Describe the life of free African Americans in the colonies.

"There are no questions matching your selected criteria" that is, "SLAVERY"

NOTE: I MAY HAVE WRITTEN THE LAST QUESTION HERE, OR I MAY NOT. IT IS STORED UNDER MY CATEGORY 'WRITE YOUR OWN MCAS QUESTIONS' WHICH LEADS ME TO CONSIDER THAT POSSIBILITY. I ALSO NOTE THAT" unlike the middle passage question, this is hard to write as a multiple choice, AND this seems the second most amenable to deriving a fact, and much better for a reading passage."

Which of the following best describes how free african Americans lived in the colonies?

- **A.** they were treated equally with all other people
- **B.** their lives were no better than when they were enslaved
- **C.** they were required to live in segregated communities
- **D.** most lived in urban areas