**Quaestio:**

**Nunc Agenda:** One member of the pair will read and analyze the poem, and the other will read and analyze the article on the other side, and both will answer the related questions. Having come to a conclusion on the final question, pairs will discuss their positions and use the poem or article to support their stance.

**“Pity for Poor Africans”**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>I own I am shocked at the purchase of slaves, And fear those who buy them and sell them are knaves; What I hear of their hardships, their tortures, and groans Is almost enough to draw pity from stones.</th>
<th>Besides, if we do, the French, Dutch, and Danes, Will heartily thank us, no doubt, for our pains: If we do not buy the poor creatures, they will: And tortures and groans will be multiplied still.</th>
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<tr>
<td>I pity them greatly, but I must be mum, For how could we do without sugar and rum? Especially sugar, so needful we see; What, give up our desserts, our coffee, and tea?</td>
<td>If foreigners likewise would give up the trade, Much more in behalf of your wish might be said; But, while they got riches by purchasing blacks, Pray tell me why we may not also go snacks?</td>
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**Vocabulary Clarification**

| Own- admit | Knaves- dishonest people |
| Mum- quiet | Go Snacks- to share in something |

1. Does the speaker in the poem feel bad for slaves? How can you tell?

2. According to the speaker, why is slavery necessary?

3. According to the speaker, if the English (his people) stop trading slaves, will slavery end? Explain.

4. Based on this poem, who do you feel is responsible for the enslavement of Africans? Why?
While we are all familiar with the role played by the United States and the European colonial powers like Britain, France, Holland, Portugal and Spain, there is very little discussion of the role Africans themselves played (in the slave trade). And that role, it turns out, was a considerable one, especially for the slave-trading kingdoms of western and central Africa. These included the Akan of the kingdom of Asante in what is now Ghana, the Fon of Dahomey (now Benin), the Mbundu of Ndongo in modern Angola and the Kongo of today’s Congo, among several others. For centuries, Europeans in Africa kept close to their military and trading posts on the coast. Exploration of the interior, home to the bulk of Africans sold into [slavery] at the height of the slave trade, [did not happen until the late 1800s when Europeans colonized Africa.]

How did slaves make it to these coastal forts? The historians John Thornton and Linda Heywood of Boston University estimate that 90 percent of those shipped to the New World were enslaved by Africans and then sold to European traders.

The sad truth is that without complex business partnerships between African elites and European traders and commercial agents, the slave trade to the New World would have been impossible, at least on the scale it occurred... Slavery was a business, highly organized and lucrative for European buyers and African sellers alike...

[The conquest and capture of Africans and their sale to Europeans was one of the main sources of foreign exchange for several African kingdoms for a very long time. Slaves were the main export of the kingdom of Kongo; the Asante Empire in Ghana exported slaves and used the profits to import gold. Queen Njinga, the brilliant 17th-century monarch of the Mbundu, waged wars of resistance against the Portuguese but also conquered polities as far as 500 miles inland and sold her captives to the Portuguese. When Njinga converted to Christianity, she sold African traditional religious leaders into slavery, claiming they had violated her new Christian precepts...]

1. What were some of the Kingdoms who benefitted from the slave trade?

2. How did European slave traders get the majority of their slaves?

3. How did Queen Njinga use religion as an excuse for enslaving people?

4. Based on this article, who do you feel is responsible for the enslavement of Africans? Why?