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*Amistad*

1. This movie starts in 1839. In what year was it made illegal to bring slaves to the United States (use your notes from *The Transatlantic Slave Trade* reading)?

2. What do you think the Spaniards hide when they see the other ships that may help them?

3. How are the Africans treated when their ship is seized? What are the conditions in prison?

4. What is the main argument taking place in court in regards to the slaves?

5. What is the lawyer Mr. Baldwin, played by Matthew McConaughey, trying to prove to the court by giving instructions to the captives in English and Spanish? Why?

6. Why does the president support the replacement of the judge overseeing the Amistad case? What are the reasons the new judge is selected?

7. What advice does John Quincy Adams give to Mr. Joadson, played by Morgan Freeman?

8. How does Mr. Baldwin convince Cinque to help him?

9. Describe Cinque’s journey in the Middle Passage.

10. During Cinque’s story we discover that slaves were thrown overboard. Why did the slavers do this?

11. Why aren’t the Africans freed when they win the case? What is the president’s role in this?

12. What happens to Mr. Baldwin’s law practice? and his clients?

13. Why does the defense try so hard (and repeatedly) to get John Quincy Adams on their side?

14. Why is this court case such a big deal for the United States on a national level? (John Quincy Adams mentions this several times in his speech to the Supreme Court judges).

15. Who does the Supreme Court judge in favor of? What reasons do they give for this?

16. What happens to Cinque?