Anatomy of an Epidemic: Origins of Yellow Fever

GATHERING THE INFO: *As you watch the webisode, take notes to complete this sheet. You may need to pause the webisode and/or watch it more than once to get all of the information.*

1. Yellow Fever Timeline: *Note that events will not be presented in chronological (time) order. You will not be able to fill in the later dates until you have already answered questions II & III.*

17th Century- **Europeans come to Caribbean and are confronted with new disease**

1690s- **Early outbreaks of yellow fever in the Caribbean**

1791- **Slave revolts on Saint Domingue→war between British and**

French→Europeans get yellow fever

1792- **Most deadly epidemic originated on the island of Bolama in West Africa; British abolitionists trying to start colony for freed slaves fell victim to tropical diseases. Returned to Caribbean and brought yellow fever with them**

1793- **French fleeing Haiti bring yellow fever to Philadelphia**

1853 & 1878- **Terrible epidemics in Mississippi River Valley**

1905- **Epidemic in New Orleans**

2. How was yellow fever epidemic connected to the slave trade?

Enslaved people brought the disease with them from Africa to plantations in places like Jamaica and Saint Domingue (Haiti). Goods and people traveled from the Caribbean to North America, bringing yellow fever with them.

3. Why did French refugees from Haiti come to North America instead of France?

They were afraid to return during the French Revolution.

4. What was *vomito negro*? What was its significance? **Black vomit. It was caused by dried blood and indicated that a person was about to die.**

EXPLORING PRIMARY SOURCES: *What symptoms of yellow fever are illustrated in the images shown at 4 minutes, 41 seconds and 5 minutes, 4 seconds?*

Bleeding from the mouth and nose; possibly black vomit

ANALYZING THE INFO: *Professor David Barnes says that the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793 in Philadelphia was similar to the events of September 11, 2001? Do you agree with his comparison? Why or why not?*

Answers will vary