

American Slavery: The Southern Plantation Way of Life

Directions: Answer each of the following either True or False.

- _____ 1. Plantation owners paid a lot of money for slaves.
- _____ 2. If a slave owner wanted to, he could sell off the children of any of his female slaves.
- _____ 3. Cotton did not become an important crop on plantations until after the invention of certain new textile machines.
- _____ 4. Every slave was provided with his or her own small cabin.
- _____ 5. By law, plantation slaves were given two week vacations from work each year in order to rest.

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True or False

Directions: Answer each of the following either True or False; and if False, explain why:

- _____ 1. Slavery didn't start until after Christopher Columbus began the European colonization of the New World.
- _____ 2. In the South, most slaves lived on small plantations with just a few other slaves.
- _____ 3. The number of slaves in the American South reached its peak during the period right before the Revolutionary War.
- _____ 4. The Industrial Revolution resulted in a reduction in the size of most factories.
- _____ 5. Nearly all Africans sold into slavery were captured by parties of white slave hunters.
- _____ 6. The African slave trade was centered along the ports of the Mediterranean Sea.
- _____ 7. On southern plantations, the children of slaves were not allowed to be educated beyond the third grade.
- _____ 8. Cotton was America's main export in 1776.
- _____ 9. It was illegal for slave owners to testify against slaves in courts.
- _____ 10. Under the U.S. Constitution of 1787, it was illegal for slave owners to run for President.

Directions: Fill in the blanks

1. During colonial times, Georgia was ruled by the country of _____ and Florida was ruled by _____.
2. _____ was the main crop of the plantations in the colonies of Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland.
3. _____ and _____ were the main crops in colonial South Carolina.
4. _____ is the source of molasses.
5. The importation of slaves was _____ in America in 1808.
6. Water-powered machines for _____ and _____ thread increased the demand for cotton.
7. Slavery did not take hold in New England because of the region's soil and climate didn't favor large scale _____.
8. At southern slave auctions, a child could be sold to the highest _____ and taken from his/her mother.
9. It was illegal for slaves in the South to do such things as _____, _____, _____, and _____.
10. In the South, it was typical for slaves to share their _____ with 10-12 people.

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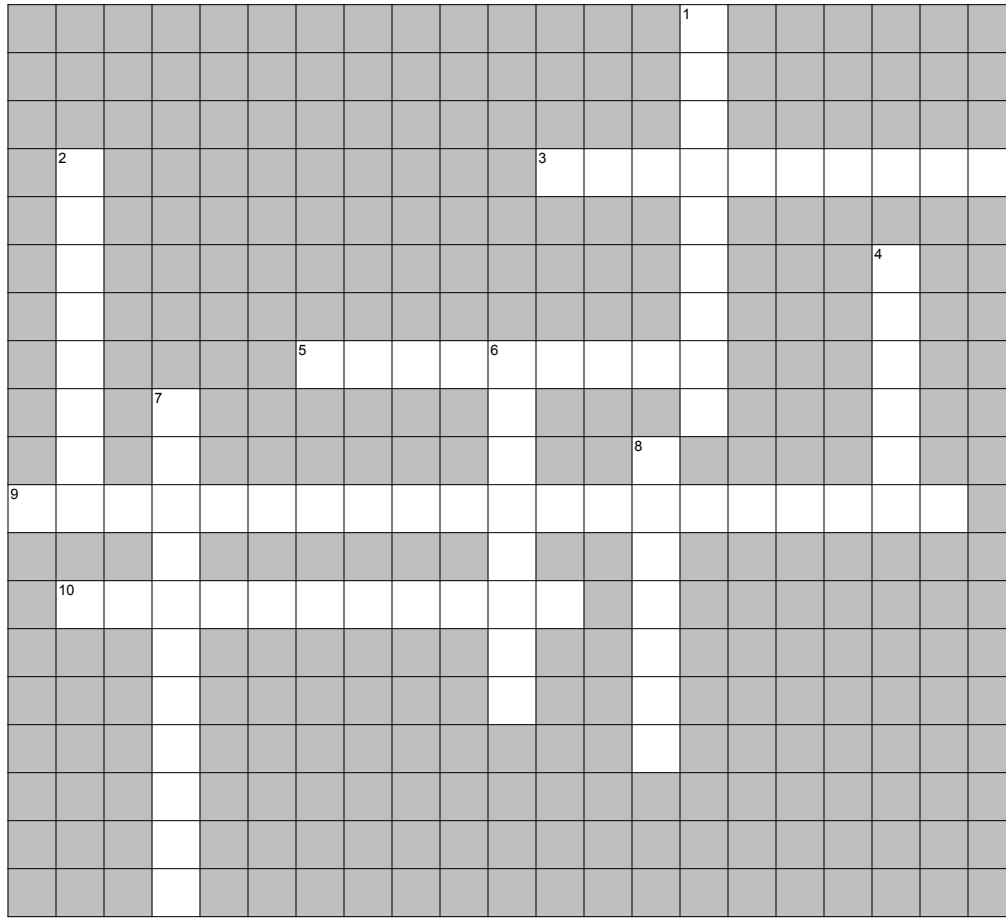
VIDEO QUIZ

Directions: Answer the following either True or False.

- _____ 1. In 1808 the U.S. Congress passed a law banning the importation of slaves.
- _____ 2. Cotton was the main export of the 13 American colonies.
- _____ 3. Some triangular trade routes were based on selling slaves.
- _____ 4. Industrialization of the textile industry caused the number of plantation slaves to decrease.
- _____ 5. Slaves could legally own land but not vote.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

3. Ships carrying slaves from Africa usually voyaged across the ocean on these kinds of trade routes.
5. This device rapidly removes the seeds from cotton.
9. The first big textile factories began to be built during this historical era.
10. On southern plantations, these people raised and processed the crops.

Down

1. The big slave plantations in the Caribbean region mostly raised this crop.
2. These states were opposed to slavery.
4. Plantations in South Carolina raised these plants to make a valuable blue dye.
6. The day-to-day operations of a plantation were run by this man.
7. On southern plantations, these people looked after the owner's house and family.
8. Most slave plantations in the colonies of Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia raised this crop.

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TIMELINE 1492 - 1847 and Activity

1492

- Christopher Columbus arrives in the West Indies. Shortly after that, slavery of native people begins.

1565

- Spanish found St. Augustine, Florida.

1607

- English found Jamestown, Virginia.

1619

- First Africans are sold to tobacco planters in Jamestown, Virginia. Some of the first Africans in Virginia were treated like indentured servants and were able to work for their freedom. Others were sold as slaves.
- African slaves are used in French, Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese colonies in the New World.

1670

- Many colonies start to pass "slave laws" that prohibit slaves from receiving an education, moving about without permission, testifying in court against whites, etc.

1750

- 200,000 slaves live in the English colonies.

1760s

- The spinning jenny and water frame are invented in England for spinning fibers.

1776

- Most slaves favor the British in the Revolutionary War believing a victory by Britain would offer them the earliest and best chance for them to obtain freedom. Nevertheless, 5,000 free blacks fight for the American side.

1789

- Samuel Slater is the first American to install water-powered spinning machines at his cotton textile mill in Rhode Island.

1790

- Census count reveals there are 59,000 free blacks in the United States.

1791

- 500,000 slaves revolt in the French colony of Haiti in the Caribbean and take control.

1793

- Eli Whitney of Connecticut invents the cotton gin.

1800

- An uprising by slaves is stopped near Richmond, Virginia. Thirty-seven slaves are hanged.

1807

- British Parliament outlaws the slave trade.

1808

- Importing slaves into America is made illegal by Congress. The law is never effectively enforced.

- About 700,000 slaves live in the South. Slaves outnumber whites in South Carolina and make up half the population of Maryland and Virginia.

1811

- Slaves revolt in Louisiana. Sixty-six slaves are beheaded; their heads are displayed along roadways.
- Abolitionists in America are advocating the end of slavery.

1816

- Richard Allen establishes the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, the first black denomination in the United States.

1817

- American Colonization Society is established by John C. Calhoun and Henry Clay to lessen the "race problem" by sending free blacks back to Africa on a voluntary basis.

1822

- The black American colony of Liberia is established in Africa.
- Rebellion of slaves who plan to seize Charleston, South Carolina, is stopped by the militia.

1830

- There are 330,000 free blacks in the United States; half of them live in slave states.

1831

- Turner's Rebellion, a slave revolt in Virginia led by Nat Turner; 60 whites are killed.

1834

- Britain begins to abolish slavery in their colonies.

1839

- Captive Africans aboard the slave ship Amistad mutiny of the coast of Cuba. They sail to New York and gain freedom.

1847

- Liberia becomes Africa's first self-governing black government.

Timeline Activity: Fill in the correct date.

1. Jamestown, Virginia, was founded in _____ and the first Africans were sold to work on the nearby plantations in the year _____.
2. Liberia, in Africa, was founded as a colony for free African-Americans in _____.
3. The British Parliament outlawed the slave trade in _____.
4. The cotton gin was invented in _____, helping to greatly increase the demand for cotton.
5. The biggest slave revolt of all time occurred in Haiti in the year _____.

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VOCABULARY LIST

auction - A sale in which articles are sold to the person willing to pay the most money (the highest bidder).

bidder - A person who offers to pay a certain price.

Bill of Rights - The first ten amendments to the Constitution, designed to protect the personal freedoms of Americans. Slaves were guaranteed no rights under this document.

bondage - Slavery, constraint

branding - Burning an owner's mark into the skin of a living being. Slaves were sometimes branded by their owners.

Constitution, U.S. - The document containing the most basic laws of the nation and plan for the U.S. federal government.

cotton gin - A machine for removing seeds from cotton. It was invented in 1793 by Eli Whitney.

enslavement - The act of forcing someone to be a slave.

field slave - The slaves responsible for farm work.

grist mill - A place where grain is ground into flour.

house slaves - The slaves responsible for work done in the plantation owner's house.

indigo - A plant from which a blue dye is obtained.

Industrial Revolution - An historical era that began in England in the late 18th century which led to the rise of machine-based factory work and the decline of domestic handwork. Textile manufacturing was the first industry to be transformed by industrialization.

Jamestown, Virginia - The first successful English settlement in North America, founded in 1607.

mansion house - The large, usually very extravagant home of a plantation owner.

Middle Passage - The part of the triangular trade routes where slaves were carried across the Atlantic to the colonies.

molasses - A dark syrup derived from sugar cane.

overseer - The person who was in charge of overseeing the operation of a plantation.

plantation - A grand estate for raising cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, etc.

power loom - A machine loom run by water or steam power in the 19th century.

Quakers - Religious group founded in England that spread to the northern colonies of Pennsylvania and New Jersey; Quakers did not believe in slavery.

rations - Fixed, usually limited allowance of items such as food or clothing. Slaves were provided with rations of food and clothing.

slave - A person forced to perform work for an owner without pay.

slave's collar - A metal collar that could be locked around the neck of a slave. Some collars had bells on them so if that slave ran away the sound of the ringing bells would make him easier to find.

slave trade - The business of buying and selling slaves.

spinning machine - A machine that did the job of a person working at a spinning wheel that could produce multiple spools of thread. These machines were usually run by water or steam power.

spinning wheel - A simple device run by a foot pedal on which a person wove raw fibers of wool, cotton, or flax into thread or yarn.

sugar cane - A tall, grass-like plant from which sugar can be obtained after the canes are crushed and pressed, and the juice boiled down and purified. Sugar cane was, and still is, an important crop in Louisiana.

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sugar house - A building found on sugar cane plantations on which cane juice is boiled down as part of the sugar-making process.

Triangular Trade Routes - Three way trade routes of sailing ships across the Atlantic, usually running from North America or the West Indies, to Europe, and then to Africa. From the 1500s to the 1800s, slaves were important items of trade on some triangular trade routes.

weaver - A person who weaves thread into cloth on a loom.

West Indies - Islands in the Caribbean Sea (such as Cuba).

Vocabulary Activity

Directions: By consulting the vocabulary list, find a correct word to fill in the blank.

1. On the plantations of the American South, crops were tended by _____, while the owner's family was cared for by _____.
2. The day to day operations of a plantation were run by the _____.
3. New textile machines ushered in the historical era known as _____.
4. Before the invention of the cotton gin, _____ had to be removed from cotton fibers by hand.
5. A sale based on bidding is called a _____.
6. On Triangular Trade Routes, slaves were picked up in _____.
7. Blue dye can be made from _____ plants.
8. The grand estates on which cotton, rice, and tobacco were raised in the South are called _____.
9. The religious group known as the _____ were against slavery.
10. The islands in the Caribbean Sea are often called the _____.