



TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
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TEACHING HARD HISTORY

American Slavery Quiz 1.0

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE

1. How was indentured servitude different from enslavement of Africans in the British North American colonies?

- a. **Indentured servants were freed at the end of a set number of years.**
- b. Children born during an indentured servant's term had to serve until adulthood.
- c. Only men could be indentured.
- d. Indentured servants came from the West Indies.

Indentured servants signed a contract to work for a certain number of years, often in exchange for passage to the colonies and a plot of land at completion of the contract. Maps to Key Concept: 1, 6

2. Which of the following was NOT true of chattel slavery as it developed in the British colonies?

- a. Enslaved people were considered personal property.
- b. Enslaved people had no human rights.
- c. Enslaved people could be bought, sold or inherited.
- d. **Enslaved people inherited the status of their father.**

Contrary to English law, which stated that children inherited the status of their father, slave codes in the American colonies provided that children born into bondage inherited the status of the mother. Maps to Key Concept: 1, 6

3. Which was NOT a common form of resistance among enslaved people?

- a. **Violent armed rebellion**
- b. Running away
- c. Feigning illness
- d. Breaking tools and slowing the pace of work

Everyday resistance was far more common—and more easily achieved—than armed rebellion. Maps to Key Concept: 5

4. In the Declaration of Independence, what percentage of enslaved people were included in the line “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

- a. 0%
- b. 25%
- c. 50%
- d. 75%
- e. 100%

The promise of equality and liberty in the Declaration did not extend to any enslaved people.

Maps to Key Concept: 3

5. Which was NOT a condition of life for enslaved people?

- a. Hard work, even for women and children
- b. Isolation, subjugation and fear of punishment
- c. The ability to always keep families intact**
- d. The ability to hunt, fish and grow gardens to supplement their diets

Extended family ties were important in communities of enslaved people, but families were often separated through sale, inheritance or other transfers of property by their enslavers.

Maps to Key Concept: 6

6. Which formally ended slavery in the United States?

- a. 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**
- b. Emancipation Proclamation
- c. Treaty ending the Civil War
- d. Civil Rights Act of 1968

The 13th Amendment, ratified in 1865, formally ended slavery. *Maps to Key Concept: 3, 8, 10*

7. Which was the reason the South seceded from the Union?

- a. To preserve states' rights
- b. To preserve slavery**
- c. To protest taxes on imported goods
- d. To avoid rapid industrialization

Every secession document cites slavery as the main reason the southern states seceded.

Maps to Key Concept: 7

8. Communities of enslaved people created music to...

- a. Entertain enslavers in the Big House
- b. Pass the time
- c. Express dreams and frustrations**
- d. Influence popular culture

For enslaved people, music was one of the ways to express dreams and frustrations without interference from enslavers. *Maps to Key Concept: 9, 10*

9. People enslaved by colonists in North America included all of the following except:
- a. **Irish people**
 - b. Muslims
 - c. West Africans
 - d. Native Americans

It is a myth that Irish people were enslaved. Many suffered through horrible conditions of indentured servitude, but none were subject to lifelong, hereditary slavery. Maps to Key Concept: 1, 2

10. Just before the Civil War, what was true of the North?
- a. Most people there opposed slavery.
 - b. **Northern banks, industries and shipping profited from slavery.**
 - c. It was separate from the South, with few economic or social ties.
 - d. Free black people could vote and had other civil rights there.

The business arrangements and profits from slavery affected nearly every business in the North, but especially banking, insurance and shipping. Maps to Key Concept: 2, 4

11. Why did slavery grow in the United States after the importation of enslaved people was banned in 1808?
- a. The international slave trade continued unabated despite the law.
 - b. A large number of free black people were captured and sold into slavery.
 - c. **High birth rates (enslavers treated women as “breeders”) led to natural increase in the population.**
 - d. Enslaved people were smuggled into the country from Canada.

Enslaved women in the United States each had an average of nine to 10 children.
Maps to Key Concept: 4, 6, 8

12. Enslaved people had all the following connections to American colleges except:
- a. Their labor built parts of the University of Virginia.
 - b. Their sale secured the financial future of Georgetown.
 - c. Profits from the slave trade helped fund Harvard, Yale and Brown.
 - d. **Princeton set aside spaces for men who had escaped slavery beginning in 1845.**

Princeton did not set aside places for men who escaped slavery. Maps to Key Concept: 2, 4, 8