



TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
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TEACHING HARD HISTORY

American Slavery Quiz 2.0

Test your knowledge about the history of American slavery. Review each question and select the best answer (even if you're not sure).

1. At one time or another prior to the Civil War, slavery was called all of the following by its defenders EXCEPT:
 - a. The “peculiar institution”
 - b. A necessary evil
 - c. The “Devil’s necessity”
 - d. A positive good
2. Frederick Douglass, Henry “Box” Brown, and Harriet Jacobs were all
 - a. Defenders of slavery
 - b. Enslaved people who escaped captivity
 - c. Leaders of slave revolts
 - d. Conductors on the Underground Railroad
3. Which was NOT a reason for the mass relocation of enslaved people from the upper to the lower South in the first half of the 19th century?
 - a. Decline of tobacco in Virginia
 - b. Invention of the cotton gin
 - c. Laws passed in Virginia and the Carolinas to gradually end slavery
 - d. Military defeats of Choctaw and Creek nations led them to cede fertile territory to the United States.
4. What is the Black Belt?
 - a. A southern extension of the Underground Railroad
 - b. A Deep South region known for its rich, dark fertile soil
 - c. Something every enslaved person had to wear to identify themselves
 - d. Site of a slave rebellion that sparked the Civil War
5. What has been called the Second Middle Passage?
 - a. The domestic U.S. slave trade
 - b. The trip from the West Indies to the British North American colonies
 - c. The time it took for an enslaved African to adjust to plantation labor
 - d. The migration of black people out of the South in the 20th century

6. Which colony became the first to legalize slavery, in 1641?
 - a. Massachusetts
 - b. New York
 - c. Virginia
 - d. South Carolina

7. What was the impact of the Three-Fifths Compromise in the U.S. Constitution?
 - a. It meant that slave states had fewer seats in the House of Representatives.
 - b. It decreased the Electoral votes assigned to slave states.
 - c. It ensured that slave states had disproportionate influence on the presidency, the speakership of the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court.
 - d. It had no political effect on the nation.

8. In what British colonial city did enslaved men revolt in 1712, setting a fire to signal others and starting a riot that killed nine people?
 - a. New York
 - b. Baltimore
 - c. Richmond
 - d. Charleston

Enslaved people across the British colonies maintained aspects of their African culture in all of the following ways EXCEPT:

- a. Maintaining burial traditions, such as including ritual objects in the grave.
- b. Continuing to communicate with each other in their home language.
- c. Crafting musical instruments using gourds, skins and other objects.
- d. Cooking with rice, yams, okra and black-eyed peas.

Approximately what percentage of southern households owned enslaved people in 1860?

- a. 10 percent
- b. 25 percent
- c. 33 percent
- d. 50 percent.