



TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
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TEACHING HARD HISTORY

American Slavery Quiz 2.0

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE

1. At one time or another prior to the Civil War, slavery was called all of the following by its defenders EXCEPT:
- The “peculiar institution”
 - A necessary evil
 - The “Devil’s necessity”**
 - A positive good

The phrase “Devil’s necessity” was not used to defend slavery. All the other expressions were used in discussions about slavery. Maps to Key Concept: 4, 8

2. Frederick Douglass, Henry “Box” Brown, and Harriet Jacobs were all
- Defenders of slavery
 - Enslaved people who escaped captivity**
 - Leaders of slave revolts
 - Conductors on the Underground Railroad

All of these people ran away from enslavement and told their stories to support abolitionism. Maps to Key Concept: 4, 5, 6, 10

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?
- Decline of tobacco in Virginia
 - Invention of the cotton gin
 - Laws passed in Virginia and the Carolinas to gradually end slavery**
 - Military defeats of Choctaw and Creek nations led them to cede fertile territory to the United States.

None of the southern states — including Virginia and the Carolinas — passed laws to end slavery, although the Virginia legislature debated abolition in 1831. Maps to Key Concept: 2, 6, 10

4. What is the Black Belt?
- A southern extension of the Underground Railroad
 - A Deep South region known for its rich, dark fertile soil**
 - Something every enslaved person had to wear to identify themselves
 - Site of a slave rebellion that sparked the Civil War

Stretching across Alabama and Mississippi, the dark soil of the Black Belt was perfect for cotton. *Maps to Key Concept: 2, 6*

5. What has been called the Second Middle Passage?
- The domestic U.S. slave trade**
 - The trip from the West Indies to the British North American colonies
 - The time it took for an enslaved African to adjust to plantation labor
 - The migration of black people out of the South in the 20th century

It's estimated that approximately 1 million people were forcibly relocated from the upper to the lower South during the domestic U.S slave trade from about 1790 to the Civil War. *Maps to Key Concept: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8*

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

Massachusetts was the first colony to enact laws defining slavery. *Maps to Key Concept: 1, 2, 3, 8*

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

The Three-Fifths Compromise gave slave states extra representation in Congress and extra votes in the Electoral College, which increased their influence on the president, the justices he appointed and the speaker the House selected. *Maps to Key Concept: 3, 4, 8, 10*

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?
- New York**
 - Baltimore
 - Richmond
 - Charleston

In 1712, enslaved men set a fire to stage an attack on those who came to put it out in New York, where enslaved people made up 20 percent of the city's population. *Maps to Key Concept: 4, 5, 6, 9, 10*

9. Enslaved people across the British colonies maintained aspects of their African culture in all of the following ways EXCEPT:
- Maintaining burial traditions, such as including ritual objects in the grave.
 - Continuing to communicate with each other in their home language.**
 - Crafting musical instruments using gourds, skins and other objects.
 - Cooking with rice, yams, okra and black-eyed peas.

In fact, many enslaved Africans were multilingual; the need to communicate with people from different areas of Africa and with Europeans led many to rely on pidgin language at first and to develop creole languages later on. *Maps to Key Concept: 4, 5, 6, 9, 10*

10. Approximately what percentage of southern households owned enslaved people in 1860?
- a. 10 percent
 - b. 25 percent
 - c. 33 percent**
 - d. 50 percent.

Thirty-three percent of white households included enslaved people, according to the Census of 1860.
Maps to Key Concept: 4, 6, 7