

GUIDED READING QUESTIONS:

"Cotton is King!"

Know: Eli Whitney, Cotton Gin

1. What is meant by "Cotton is King?" How did its sovereignty extend beyond the South? What implications did its rule have?

The Planter "Aristocracy"

Know: Chivalry

2. In what ways was the south "basically undemocratic?"

Slaves and the Slave System

Know: One crop economy

3. What were the weaknesses of the South's dependence on cotton?

The White Majority

Know: Yeoman Farmer, hillbilly

4. Why did many whites who did not own slaves support slavery?

Free Blacks: Slaves Without Masters

Know: Emancipate, mulattoes

5. Would it have been better to be a free Black in the North or in the South? Explain.

Plantation Slavery

Know: Chattel, natural increase, Harriet Beecher Stowe

6. "...planters regarded slaves as investments [like a mule]...." Explain what was positive and what was negative about this situation for slaves.

Life Under the Lash

Know: Overseer, breaker, Old South, Deep South

7. Give evidence to show that slaves developed a separate, unique culture. What circumstances made this possible?

The Burdens of Bondage

A Quick Timeline of Major Slave Rebellions 1712 to 1831

New York City, 1712

Like many later revolts, this one occurred during a period of social dissension among whites following Leisler's Rebellion. The rebels espoused traditional African religion.

Stono Rebellion, 1739

The Spanish empire enticed slaves of English colonies to escape to Spanish territory. In 1733 Spain issued an edict to free all runaway slaves from British territory who made their way into Spanish possessions. On September 9, 1739, about 20 slaves, mostly from Angola, gathered under the leadership of a slave called Jemmy near the Stono River, 20 miles from Charleston. 44 blacks and 21 whites lost their lives. South Carolina responded by placing import duties on slaves from abroad, strengthening patrol duties and militia training, and recommending more benign treatment of slaves.

Prosser's Rebellion, 1800

When the day of the revolt arrived though, a violent storm washed out the roads and bridges leading to Richmond. The rebels broke up and Prosser was betrayed by one of his followers. The state militia captured Prosser and he and many of his followers were hanged.

Denmark Vesey's Conspiracy, 1822

This failed insurrection was organized soon after the contentious debate over the admission of Missouri as a slave state. Like Gabriel, Vesey consciously looked to Haiti for inspiration and support.

Nat Turner, 1831

This insurrection took place at a time when slaves in Jamaica had staged one of the largest

revolts in history, when radical abolition had arisen in the North, and Britain was debating slave emancipation.

The Burdens of Bondage

Know: Peculiar institution, Gabriel Prosser, Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner

8. Thomas Jefferson once said that having slaves was like holding a wolf by the ears, you didn't like it but you couldn't let go. How does this section help to explain this statement?

Early Abolitionism

Know: Abolition, The American Colonization Society, Theodore Weld, Arthur and Lewis Tappan, Harriet Beecher Stowe

9. Describe some of the early abolitionists.

Radical Abolitionism

Know: William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, David Walker, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass

10. How were the attitudes of William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass different? When dealing with an issue that is moral and political, how rigid should a person be?

The South Lashes Back

11. How did the South defend itself against the attacks of abolitionists?

The Abolitionist Impact in the North

12. How did Northerners view abolitionists? Did they have any success?

