

Slavery in America: 1776-1865

Part 1: Read ["The Idea of America"](#)

Reflect on this reading. **Pick ONE option to do:**

Option 1: Pick one quote that stood out to you the most. Explain why you picked that Quote? What did it make you think about? How did it make you feel? What connections did you make to that part of the reading

Option 2: Do you connect to the author's experience in any way? Explain.

Option 3: What further questions do you have related to the information in the reading? What do you want to learn more about?

I probably would've connected to the author's experience maybe a few years ago, when I believed that America had been somewhat of a lie in terms of what it had to offer/treat its people. Now, not so much as I see how America is good despite its flaws, that America although not holding to its ideals initially. That the American flag belongs to no one specifically, but to everyone, as everyone had a part to play in the building of the world leader of the free world. Be it the slaves who were used inhumanly to build some of the structures that would define the skylines of some of the nations most important cities, to those the Chinese, especially in the West with their contribution to the building of the Transcontinental railroad. There are so many more examples of the great contribution by people of the many ethnicities that make up America's population.

Part 2: Read this [Timeline](#). [Answer the questions in the table below \(Short answers ok\)](#).

What is the significance of the year 1619 in regards to slavery in America?	The first slave ship arrived in America (although they wouldn't make up the maj. of labor force for a while)
How many people were transported through the Middle Passage?	12.5 million Africans
Of the 55 people who wrote the constitution, how many owned slaves?	45% (rough percentage)
How did Mum Bett sue for her freedom?	Argued that slavery violated New Massachusetts of 1780 in which said that all men are born free and equal
Who was Nat Turner?	He led "One of the most famous rebellions against slavery" but was caught after 68 days and hanged

What was the “Gag Rule”?	A rule enacted by the House of Representatives to block the discussion of getting rid of slavery or the rights of enslaved people
How many enslaved persons were living in the U.S. in 1860?	4 million
How many black soldiers served in the Union Army?	~180,000
What was the price for an 18-year-old girl in Savannah, GA., in 1863?	\$2,500
What piece of legislation abolished slavery?	13th Amendment
Who was The Girl Redoshi?	The last survivor of the Slave Trade in the U.S. and had died in 1937
What was Brown V. Board of Education?	The ruling made by the Supreme Court in 1954 which illegalized the segregation going on in education.
When did Mississippi officially abolish slavery?	2013

Read “How I became a historian” by Annette Gordon-Reed (who you have and will see in many historical documentaries during our APUSH course). How did the first book that Gordon-Reed writes as a historian change her life? Why did she write it?

The first book she writes exposed to her that the history, according to her, of America was flawed, told through the perspective of one race, that the founding fathers were not as good as they seemed. Why she wrote it was due to the curiosity she held as a child as to why history was so positive towards Jefferson and so downwards looking of the slaves under him, and slaves in general.

Part 3: Read the [1619 Project Supplementary section from Times Magazine](#). Start at page 11

Pg 11 (No. 2: The limits of Freedom)

1. **Pg 11** (from **Introduction** and the **Destructive Impact of the cotton gin**) --How did the ban on the international slave trade in 1808 and the cotton gin affect America?

The closing of the international slave trade in 1808 signified not only (at least until the cotton gin) the beginning of the slow death of slavery, but the increase of the domestic trading of slaves within the states that allowed for the practice. But with the introduction of the cotton

gin, it brought slavery back from the rather slow brink, and in fact brought it back to economic viability, fortifying the practice with the efficiency of the invention to process cotton, especially in the Deep South and westward due in part to the Louisiana Purchase.

Pg 11 Read: **God Wouldn't Want Segregated Sanctuaries**

Who is Rev. Richard Allen? Why were organizations of faith important for free people of color?

Rev. Richard Allen was a reverend and an abolitionist who was born a slave, he went on to found the African Methodist Episcopal denomination of the Methodists as he sought to create a place of worship, education, civic engagement, etc. just for freed people of color and those transitioning into life as a free man. Why faith was important to free people of color was because of what they provided to those who had either been freed or freed themselves outside of religion or on top of it (education, resources, etc.).

Pg 11 Read **A powerful letter**

Who is Benjamin Banneker and what did he write to Thomas Jefferson? What was the response?

According to the document, Benjamin Banneker was a black (free) mathematician, scientist, astronomer, and surveyor who wrote to T.J. telling him to cease looking down on Blacks with his prejudices. The response he got was that he welcomed those who showed the intellect of those who exhibit talents of other colors.

Page 12-14 (No. 3: A Slave nation fights for Freedom).

Page 12: **Read Introduction.**

As “demand for cotton grew” and “slavery became more systematic, codified and regulated”, : what were its effects on the nation (on slaves, economics on the U.S. poor whites, Native Americans, reformers, and relationship among the states). List at least 4 effects!

- Increase of domestic slave trading in the South as slaves began to gain more worth in extracting of cotton
- Growth in momentum of the abolitionist/opposition (slavery) movements as a result of the growth of slavery, westward especially, with the coming of cotton
- The allowance of owners to do what they pleased with their slaves
- The growth of tension between the slave and free states, boiling over with the advent of the Civil War
- The seeing of slavery as a sin amongst abolitionists and thus unjustifiable

Read: **A woman bequeathed” (given)**

Who is Rhoda Phillips? At what points in her life was her name written down as officially recorded? What does the last time she was mentioned, in her obituary, say about the interactions between white owners and their black slaves? What do you think about this?

Rhoda Phillips was born a slave and sold to another slave owner and was freed due to the Emancipation Proclamation. She was recorded as a 1 yr. old slave child, when bequeathed to her slave owner's family, and may have been recorded as married with 8 children. She was portrayed by her former slave "family" in her obituary as an obedient slave who helped raise those who would become slave owners in their own right in her "family", and considered her as an aunt, even though they owned her, acc. to the doc., just one of the many perversities of slavery. I personally don't think much of her portrayal by her owners, rather I found the fact that she and her sisters and mother was sold for \$550 to be a bit disturbing, but not unexpected as, of course, it was slavery as it was unfair, and particularly brutal.

Read: **Generations of enslavement:**

How did slave women "increase" their value? What was the role of sexual assault in the lives of slave women?

How slave women "increase" their value by having the ability to have children and sexual assault in the lives of slave women was constant acc. to the doc. as they had no way, legally, to stop their master from sexually assaulting them unless they escape of course.

Pg 14: Read: **Liberation Theology**

Describe Nat Turner's rebellion and its effects on American slavery.

Nat Turner was the leader of ~70 Blacks, who incited a revolt in Virginia and which he and his men had killed 60 people over the course of the revolt. But they were defeated by the state's militia two days later and Turner was caught and hanged just a few months later. As result of the revolt, more prohibitive laws on Blacks were put in place which restricted whatever rights they had left (education, where they went, etc.).

Read: **The Slave Patrols**

Describe the slave patrols.

The slave patrols were pretty much those who went looking out for slaves unlawfully gathering in certain areas, wandering outside their plantation, etc. and would hand them to a justice of the peace and if fit, would order a maximum of 20 lashes for ex. on the aforementioned slave. They were there to enforce the law when it came to slaves in order to prevent any pockets of “resistance” from appearing.

Read: Growing National Tension

What was the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, and what was its effect for people of color?

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was a bill signed into law stating that all citizens must help to catch any runaway slaves and lack of compliance would be breaking the law. According to the doc., the act further prevented dehumanized Blacks in the sense that they weren't able to put up a legal defense for themselves and that they weren't considered citizens even.

What was the effect of the Dred Scott decision?

The effect of the decision acc. to the doc. was that Blacks, free or enslaved, weren't citizens in the sense of the Constitution, and thus, couldn't petition the courts. Acc. to the doc., this pretty much dehumanized them and made Blacks free game in terms of challenging a black's status.

Read: Always on your Person

What did free people of color need to carry with them at all times? Why?

What free Blacks had to carry on them was document(s) that declared them to be legally free, and was important because of the fact that it protected them from any challenge to their status with it, at least legally.

What laws, both in the North and South, are examples of how freedoms were limited were African Americans?

There were laws in both the North and South stating that Blacks couldn't own firearms, testify in court, and lastly acc. to the doc., read and write, curtailing the individual freedoms of Black Americans.

Read: One Family's Ledger

Slaveholding families kept records of their business transactions and passed down their slaves to descendants in their wills. Today there is an extreme wealth gap between white families and African American families. How is slavery related to the wealth gap of today?

If you ask me, it doesn't, it just **doesn't** (*but that counter-argument is for another time*). But if you're going off the doc. alone, it states that the practice among Whites with investing capital when it came to slaves allowed for them to get rich which continues to this day, but this claim heavily lacks any substantial evidence connecting the two time periods when it came to this topic of wealth.

Read: ***Enlisting in a Moral Fight***

During the American Civil War, Northern troops "confiscated" Southern property, including slaves. How did the Confiscation and Militia Act of 1862 affect these confiscated slaves and other people of color (including Jacob John)?

What the Confiscation and Militia Act of 1862 allowed to occur was the employing of as many people of African descent (i.e. "captured" properties/slaves) as possible and as a result, and not much of a surprise, many enlisted into the U.S.C.T., like Jacob John and further the Northern war effort against the Confederate South.

Read: ***Freedom Begins***

Who did the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 Free? What is the effect of the 13th Amendment in 1865?

The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 freed the slaves within the *rebellious* slave states, not the ones still loyal to the Union. It was the ratification of the 13th Amendment that outlawed permanently the use of involuntary servitude of any kind (i.e. slavery, peonage, etc.), especially slavery.

Part 4: Watch: America, the Story of the US: Division. From 19:50 to 29:50

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xwhtzm>

Describe hardships faced by African Americans under slavery.

Describes examples of resistance to slavery by African Americans.

- Slaves had to face the fear of never knowing if or when you and or parts of or all of your family (children, wife, etc.) could be separated to be sold at auction on an everyday basis.
- They were made to live in terrible conditions, not to mention, eat (their food was different and less nutritious than their master's) and sleep in them too.
- They had no means legally to protect themselves from the violence/brutality of slavery (be it sexual assault, rape, or otherwise), and no means to educate themselves.

- Fredrick Douglass, after attempting twice, finally succeeds in escaping slavery in 1838 and unlike the 80% of those who escape, he can read and write, not to mention, had managed to get free papers.
- After successfully escaping to freedom in New York City, Douglass becomes one of the leading figures in the abolitionist movement, writing a bestselling autobiography, advising Lincoln, and becoming one of the best known African Americans of his time.
- Slaves looking for freedom saw that their best chance was taking the Underground Railroad, in other words, getting help from Harriet Tubman (nicknamed Moses by Blacks), herself a runaway slave who risks her life returning constantly to the South to help other slaves escape the bondage of slavery. She also had a \$40,000 bounty on her head.
- Harriet was one of the first civil rights advocates, but died the same month that Rosa Parks was born.