

Student Web Activity

“Slavery”

Introduction

The institution of slavery in the Americas involved the enslavement of millions of people. These unfortunate people suffered many hardships, including the difficult Middle Passage, or journey to the Americas. In the United States, many enslaved persons were not treated well by slaveholders. Some responded to slavery by rebelling. Some refused to work or simply would not work hard for their slaveholders. Others chose to escape through the Underground Railroad. Eventually, the Civil War resulted in the emancipation, or freeing, of all slaves in the United States.

Directions:

Take notes each day as your teacher shows the presentation. Answer the following questions after each presentation. After the last presentation you will research internet links on slavery and write a description of your life as an enslaved person. Keep your notes and answers in a portfolio to hand in to your teacher at the end of the week.

Slave Trade

1. Why did slave traders use Africans as slaves?
2. What were conditions like on the Middle Passage?

Slavery

1. How many slaves were there in the South by the Civil War?
2. Where did the highest mortality rates in the United States occur?
3. What was the ruling in the *Dred Scott* case?

Slave Rebellions

1. Why did Nat Turner rebel?
2. What was the result of Turner’s rebellion?

Underground Railroad

1. How many workers assisted enslaved people escape through the Underground Railroad?
2. Why was the history of the Underground Railroad mostly preserved orally?
3. What did the Fugitive Slave Law permit?

Emancipation

1. How did the Southern states respond to the Emancipation Proclamation?

Portfolio Writing Activity

Follow the links to slavery, “the Underground Railroad,” “Harriet Tubman,” and the “Underground Railroad.” After reading through these sites, imagine yourself as an enslaved person at the time and place of your choice. Write a paragraph describing what your life is like and place it with your portfolio. Use the following questions as a guide: What is your life like? How does your slaveholder treat you? What kind of labor do you do? What is your family life like? How long have you been enslaved and how long have you lived where you live? If given the opportunity, would you take the Underground Railroad? Do you think you would be successful? Why or why not? Do you like your slaveholder? Do you work hard as an enslaved person? Have you ever thought about or tried to rebel? Why? How successful were you? If you live at the time of the Emancipation Proclamation, how has it affected you?