

REVIEW

CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 8.7.2*Slavery in the United States*

Specific Objective: Trace the origins and development of slavery. Trace its effects on black Americans and on the South's political, social, religious, economic, and cultural development. Identify the strategies that were tried to both overturn and preserve it.

Read the summary to answer the questions on the next page.

Origins and Development of Slavery

The Spanish and Portuguese first brought African slaves to the Americas in the 1400s and 1500s. The slaves worked mainly in the Caribbean sugar plantations. Slavery on the sugar plantations was particularly brutal. The first slaves came to the American South in 1619. The slave trade, which brought slaves from West Africa to the Americas, increased dramatically in the 1700s.

Slavery's Effects on Black Americans

Life under slavery in the American South was harsh and unforgiving. Enslaved African Americans endured wretched living conditions, hard labor, and brutal punishments. Families were broken up when owners sold off children or separated husbands and wives. Despite all this, the enslaved people managed to forge a new African-American culture that offered them comfort, hope, and the courage to resist. Religion, music, and family were important parts of this culture.

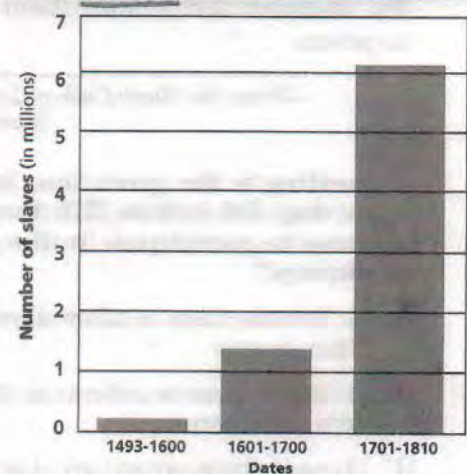
Slavery's Effects of the Development of the South

Slavery affected all aspects of Southern culture and society, including economics, politics, and religion. The South depended on unpaid labor to grow cotton, tobacco, and rice. Slavery made it possible for a few people to become extremely rich. Most Southerners did not own slaves but supported the system.

Efforts to Do Away With Slavery and Efforts to Preserve It

- Slaves resisted their condition by working slowly, damaging goods, or running away. Armed slave rebellions were rare but spread fear among the white population. In 1822, Denmark Vesey planned a revolt in Charleston, South Carolina. Nat Turner led the most famous revolt, in Virginia in 1831. Both leaders were hanged. White and black abolitionists, working mainly in the North, spoke out against slavery.
- Slaveholders fought to protect slavery through harsh slave codes. These laws promised severe punishments to slaves who tried to run away or resist. The South also pushed through national laws that made it illegal to help run-away slaves.

Slaves Imported to the Americas, 1493–1810



Source: Phillip D. Curtin, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*

PRACTICE

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

“ARTICLE XIII forbids slaves belonging to different masters to assemble in crowds, by day or by night. . . . It also commands all subjects of the King, whether officers or not, to seize and arrest the offenders and conduct them to prison. . . .”

—From the *Black Code of Louisiana*,
March, 1724

1 **According to the quotation, in what way did Article XIII force free persons to participate in the system of slavery?**

- A It forbade them to allow slaves in their homes.
- B It forced them to inform on blacks who acted strangely.
- C It made them arrest any slaves gathered in groups.
- D It required them to beat their slaves.

2 **One unplanned effect of Nat Turner's rebellion was that**

- A slaveholders made laws restricting free African Americans.
- B slaves on many plantations were liberated.
- C more people began to argue for emancipation of slaves.
- D Turner led more than 50 followers to attack plantations.

“The state of Ohio is separated from Kentucky by just one river; on either side of it the soil is equally fertile, and the situation equally favorable, and yet everything is different. Here [on the Ohio side] a population devoured by feverish activity, trying every means to make its fortune. . . . There [on the Kentucky side] are people who make others work for them and show little compassion. . . . These differences cannot be attributed to any other cause but slavery.”

—Alexis de Tocqueville, *Journey to America*

3 **The writer of the quotation views slave owners as**

- A unlucky.
- B lazy and cruel.
- C eager to succeed.
- D intelligent.

4 **Slavery in the South was harsh in that it**

- A lasted for a brief period.
- B broke up families.
- C spread religion.
- D was not profitable.

5 **What *two* aspects of culture became most important to enslaved African Americans?**

- A social clubs and family ties
- B music and books
- C religion and higher education
- D family ties and religion

Topics / Political Life in a New Nation, 1800-1830 / Slavery / Nat Turner's Rebellion

In August 1831, Nat Turner led a slave rebellion that terrified white Southerners and led to increased restrictions on African Americans, both slave and free, living in the South. Turner was a religious mystic who felt that he was ordained by God to lead the struggle to destroy slavery.



Turner's plan was to murder as many whites as possible and conduct a guerrilla campaign from swamps on the Virginia-North Carolina border. Beginning on the plantation where he was held as a slave in Southhampton County, Virginia, Turner and six co-conspirators killed his master and the master's family on August 22, 1831. The group then traveled to nearby plantations and killed any whites they encountered. Dozens of slaves joined Turner as news of the murders spread to surrounding plantations, so that he eventually commanded a force of approximately 60 men. In one night, some 55 whites were killed before most of the rebels were killed or captured in the following days by local militia and U.S. Army troops numbering roughly 3,000 men. The rebellion was definitively over by August 28. Turner evaded capture until October 30.

While awaiting trial, Turner dictated his autobiography to Thomas R. Gray, who published the work as *The Confessions of Nat Turner*. On November 5, Turner was tried and convicted; six days later, he was executed by hanging. Nat Turner's Rebellion caused a wave of vindictive legislation in the South against all African Americans, which limited their few privileges and restricted their activities. It also ended all discussions of gradually emancipating slaves in the Upper South and virtually destroyed any hopes of ending slavery by reform.

Further Reading

Baker, James Thomas, *Nat Turner: Cry Freedom in America*, 1997; Blassingame, John W., *The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South*, 1972; Greenberg, Kenneth S., ed., *Confessions of Nat Turner and Related Documents*, 1996; Johnson, F. Roy, *The Nat Turner Slave Insurrection*, 1966.

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Topics / Political Life in a New Nation, 1800-1830 / Slavery / Slavery (Visual)



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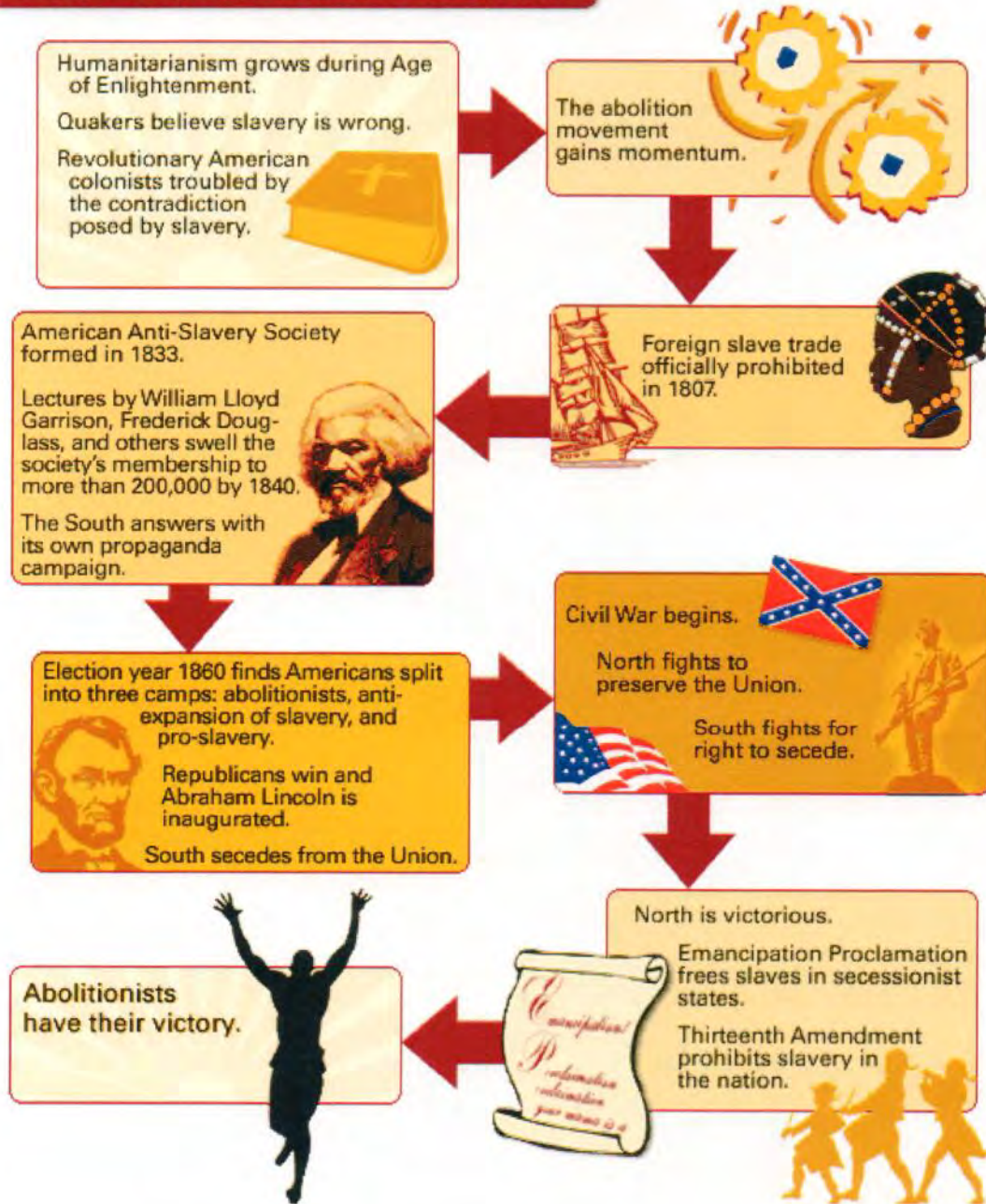
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Topics / Prelude to the Civil War, 1840-1861 / Abolition / Abolition (Visual)

THE ABOLITION MOVEMENT



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Topics / Africa and the Atlantic World, 1441-1550 / Atlantic Slave Trade / King Charles of Spain: License to Lorenzo de Gomenot for the Importation of Slaves (1518)

To make their colonies profitable, the Spanish needed workers to produce goods, and people able to resist the diseases that caused such high death rates among Native Americans and European settlers. The first slaves imported on a regular basis were Africans from Portugal who had first been converted to Christianity. As the demand for slave labor increased, the requirement of conversion was allowed to lapse, as did the practice of importing only Africans who had first been brought to Europe. At the same time, the Spanish Crown anticipated earning considerable revenues from monopolizing and licensing slave imports into the Americas (which the Pope had proclaimed a Spanish possession). The first significant license granted by the Crown was that given in 1518 by King Charles to Lorenzo de Gomenot, governor of Bresa, for the right to ship 4,000 Africans to Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico.

The King. Our officials who reside in the city of Seville in our House of Trade of the Indies; Know ye that I have given permission, and by the present [instrument] do give it, to Lorenzo de Gorrevod, [Gomenot], governor of Bresa, member of my Council, whereby he, or the person or persons who may have his authority therefor, may proceed to take to the Indies, the islands and the mainland of the ocean sea already discovered or to be discovered, four thousand negro slaves both male and female, provided they be Christians, in whatever proportions he may choose. Until these are all taken and transported no other slaves, male or female, may be transported, except those whom I have given permission [to take] up to the present date. Therefore, I order you to allow and consent to the governor of Bresa aforesaid or the person or persons aforesaid who may have his said authority to transport and take the four thousand slaves male and female, without molesting him in any way; and, if the said governor of Bresa or the persons aforesaid who may have his authority, should make any arrangements with traders or other persons to ship the said slaves, male or female, direct from the isles of Guinea and other regions from which they are wont to bring the said negroes to these realms and to Portugal, or from any other region they please, even though they do not bring them to register in that house, they may do so provided that you take sufficient security that they bring you proof of how many they have taken to each island and that the said negroes male and female, have become Christians on reaching each island, and how they have paid the customs duties there, in order that those taken be known and be not in excess of the aforesaid number. Notwithstanding any prohibition and order that may exist to the contrary, I require you and order you in regard to this not to collect any duty in that house [of trade] on the said slaves but rather you are to allow them to be taken freely and this my cedula shall be written down in the books of that house [of trade].

Done in Saragossa, the eighteenth day of August of the year 1518.

I THE KING

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"King Charles of Spain: License to Lorenzo de Gomenot for the Importation of Slaves (1518)." *The American Mosaic: The African American Experience*. ABC-CLIO, 2016. Web. 7 Jan. 2016.

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