

SLAVERY IN COLONIAL AMERICA

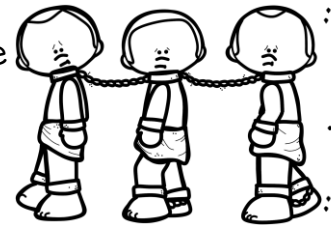
In the 1700s, slavery was common throughout the thirteen American colonies. Most slaves came from Africa, but some were Native Americans. Slavery was abolished in the Northern states after the American Revolution, but remained a practice in Southern states until after the American Civil War.

INDENTURED SERVITUDE

Indentured servants were brought over from Great Britain as laborers. Most agreed to work for seven years in exchange for their passage to America. Other indentured servants were criminals or debtors forced to work to pay off their debts or crimes. In 1619, the first Africans arrived in the Virginia colony. They were sold as indentured servants and probably set free after serving their seven years. The roots of slavery in America started with indentured servants.

BEGINNING

Indentured servants became more difficult to obtain and more expensive as the need for manual labor increased in Colonial America. Slavery of Africans became common in the late 1600s. Laws known as "slave codes" were passed in the early 1700s formalizing the legal rights of slave owners and slaves' status.



JOBS

Slaves worked a variety of jobs. Many were field hands in the tobacco and cotton fields in the Southern colonies. They worked very hard, but were treated terribly. Some slaves were house servants who completed chores around homes or worked in the master's trade shop.

HOMES

Slaves living on farms and plantations stayed in small homes near the fields. They were cramped, but gave slaves some privacy from their master. Families and communities developed around the slave quarters. Slaves working in homes had less privacy, often living in a loft above the kitchen or in the stables.



CLOTHING

Slaves who worked in fields were typically given one set of clothes to last a year. They were similar to clothing worn by colonial farmers. Men slaves wore pants and loose shirts, while women wore long dresses. House slaves usually dressed better, often wearing their master's old clothes.

TREATMENT

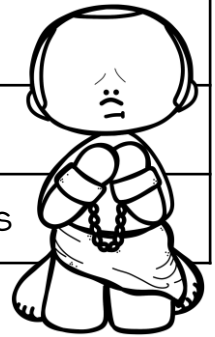
Slave masters treated their slaves differently. Generally, field slaves were treated worse than house slaves. They were sometimes whipped or beaten and forced to work long days with little rest. Slaves had no rights and were controlled by their masters 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Slaves could be bought or sold at any time. They rarely lived together long as families. Children were usually sold as soon as they could work and never saw their parents again.

Name _____

SLAVERY *in* COLONIAL AMERICA

MATCHING: Match each term with its description.

1. _____ Native Americans	A. Were sold as soon as they could work
2. _____ indentured	B. In addition to Africans, were also made slaves
3. _____ debtors	C. Laws outlining rights of slave owners and slaves
4. _____ slave codes	D. Servants who exchanged their labor for passage
5. _____ children	E. Slaves first arrived in this colony in 1619
6. _____ Civil War	F. People who owed money
7. _____ Virginia	G. Many slaves worked in these fields
8. _____ cotton	H. Slavery was not abolished until after this



TRUE OR FALSE?: Place a check in the correct column.

STATEMENT	T	F
9. All slaves came from Africa.		
10. Slaves wore clothing similar to colonial farmers.		
11. Field slaves lived in small homes near the field.		
12. Slave families were allowed to stay together for life.		
13. Slaves were usually treated fairly by their masters.		
14. House slaves usually wore nicer clothes than field slaves.		
15. Slave codes formalized the rights of slave owners.		
16. The first African slaves were brought to North Carolina in 1619.		
17. Some slaves became indentured servants after the Civil War.		
18. Field slaves were typically not treated as well as house slaves.		

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the best answer.

19. Which of the following is **NOT** a reason slaves were desired in American colonies?

- A. Indentured servants were hard to find
- B. The need for manual labor increased
- C. Masters wanted to provide better lives for slaves
- D. Indentured servants became too expensive

20. What was the **main** purpose of slave codes?

- A. To outline the rights of slaves
- B. To formalize the legal rights of slave owners
- C. To protect slaves from their masters
- D. To provide income to slaves

21. Which of the following is an accurate statement about slave homes?

- A. Slaves were not provided housing.
- B. Most slaves lived in tents.
- C. Field slaves lived in small houses near the field.
- D. All slaves lived in the large plantation homes.

22. **“Slavery was abolished in the Northern states after the American Revolution, but remained a practice in Southern states until after the American Civil War.”**

What is the best meaning of *practice*, as used in the previous quote?

- A. Repeated exercise of a skill
- B. To carry out
- C. A repeated action
- D. A professional business

23. Which **best** describes the text structure of the article?

- A. Problem and Solution
- B. Cause and Effect
- C. Compare and Contrast
- D. Description

