

## Chapter 20 African Americans in the mid-1800's

### Introduction

By 1850, the population of the United States had grown to just over \_\_\_\_\_ million. This figure included \_\_\_\_\_ million \_\_\_\_\_. The majority of African Americans lived in \_\_\_\_\_.

### North and South, Slave and Free

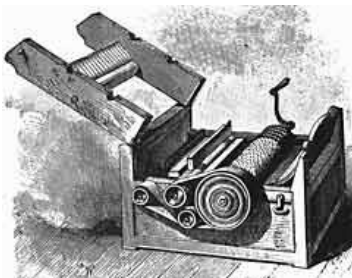
Former slave, Frederick Douglass toured the North talking to white audiences about \_\_\_\_\_. Whether free or slave, the lives of African Americans were shaped by \_\_\_\_\_ the belief that one \_\_\_\_\_.

**Slaves' Legal Status:** The law defined slaves as \_\_\_\_\_. Slaveholders can do anything with their slaves. They could \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ slaves. As property, slaves had none of the rights that free people took for granted.

"In law, the slave has \_\_\_\_\_, no children, no country, \_\_\_\_\_" "He can \_\_\_\_\_, possess nothing, \_\_\_\_\_".

### Economics of Slavery

Only \_\_\_\_\_ planters could afford to buy slaves. Majority of Southerners did \_\_\_\_\_ own slaves. The cotton gin invention made \_\_\_\_\_ a hugely profitable cash crop in the South. Bales of cotton increased from 3,000 bales (in 1790) compared to \_\_\_\_\_ bales a year (1850s). Cotton brought new \_\_\_\_\_ to the South.



Cotton engine - Cotton Gin



Slaves using the cotton gin



Bales of cotton

### Working Conditions of Slaves

On small farms, they worked \_\_\_\_\_ in the fields. On large plantations, planters hired \_\_\_\_\_ to supervise slaves. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  worked from dawn to \_\_\_\_\_ tending crops (by hand) After dark, they still worked by: \_\_\_\_\_. Some slaves worked as seamstresses, \_\_\_\_\_ or blacksmiths. Or they worked in the master's house as \_\_\_\_\_ or servants. Most began work at the age of \_\_\_\_\_ and continued until they \_\_\_\_\_. "Slave \_\_\_\_\_, Slave \_\_\_\_\_."

## Controlling Slaves

Slavery was a \_\_\_\_\_.

To make this system work, slave owners had to \_\_\_\_\_.

Harsh punishments: \_\_\_\_\_.

Slave owners preferred to control by making slaves feel totally \_\_\_\_\_ on their \_\_\_\_\_, by treating them like grown-up children. They also kept their workers ignorant.

## Resistance to Slavery

Day to Day Resistance- For most slaves, resistance took quiet passive acts of rebellion:

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Open Defiance: When pushed too hard, slaves would:

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Running Away: Some slaves tried to escape by running to freedom to the North.

The risks were enormous. Professional slave catchers were hired and if slaves were caught:

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Harriet Tubman- Underground Railroad, conductors, safe houses and freedom trains

## Rebellion:

Sometimes, resistance erupted in \_\_\_\_\_ rebellion, Slave \_\_\_\_\_ occurred in cities, on plantations and even on ships at sea.

Southern states passed \_\_\_\_\_ codes that tightened owner's control of their slaves and provided harsher punishment of slaves by authorities.

**Homework:** Research an abolitionist that helped free slaves, or a slave that rebelled. Name them and give me three key details bout them. (Do not use Harriet Tubman)

## African Americans in the mid-1800s

### Introduction

By 1850, the population of the United States had grown to just over 23 million. This figure included 3.6 million African-Americans. The majority of African Americans lived in slavery. Many slaves were born into slavery. Not all African-Americans were slaves. By the 1850s, there were about a half million free blacks as well. Many were former slaves who escaped to freedom. Whether African Americans lived in slavery or freedom, **discrimination** (unequal treatment) shaped their lives.

### North and South, Slave and Free

The experiences of African Americans in the mid-1800s depended on where they lived and whether they lived in slavery or freedom.

The law defined slaves as property. Slaveholders could do almost anything with their slaves. They could buy and sell slaves. They could leave slaves to their children after they pass away. There were some states where you could not set slaves free. As property, slaves had no rights that free people had.

About 50% of all free African Americans lived in the South. Most worked as laborers, craftsman or household servants in towns and cities. Many white southerners looked at free blacks as a dangerous group that needed to be controlled. Free blacks were not allowed to own guns or travel freely from town to town or state to state.

African Americans in the North lived much freer lives in the South but still experienced discrimination. In some states they were denied the right to vote or had trouble finding good jobs. There were some policies (laws) that separated blacks from whites in public areas, this was called **segregation**.

### Economics of Slavery

Only wealthy Southern plantation owners could afford to buy slaves. The majority of white Southerners did not own slaves. The demand for slaves increased after the invention of the Cotton gin by Eli Whitney.

The **cotton gin** made cotton a very profitable cash crop. Cotton has seeds in it and makes it very difficult to take out by hand. It would take 50 slaves all day to remove seeds from the cotton that a cotton gin could do in one day. In 1790, the South produced just 3,000 bales of cotton a year as compared to more than 4 million bales a year by the 1850's.

Even if you did not own a slave in the South, all white Southerners knew the importance of cotton and slave labor to the Southern economy. Slave costs increased, so it became less likely for non-wealthy Southerners to own slaves. Increased slave costs were good and bad. The higher costs for slaves encouraged slave owners to take better care of their slaves. However, it also made slave owners less likely to give up their slaves as the North started to demand a ban on slavery.

## Working Conditions of Slaves

And small farms, owners and slaves worked side-by-side in the fields. On large plantations, planters hired overseers to watch the slaves as they worked in the field. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  (or 75%), of slaves were **field hands** (worked in the field using your hands to pick crops). Slaves would work from dawn to dark on the crops in the fields.

A slave's job did not finish at the end of the day. After dark, they would carry water, cut wood, feed the pigs, and clean the corn or cotton, and other chores (jobs) that had to be done.

Not all slaves worked in the fields. Some were skilled seamstresses (sew clothes), carpenters (builders) or blacksmiths (work with iron). Others work in the master's house as cooks or servants. Most began working at the age of 6 and continued until they died. As one man put it, "slave young, slave long."

## Living Conditions of Slaves

Slavery was a system of forced labor (work). To make the system work, slave owners kept slaves under control. Some slave owners used **harsh punishments** like a beating, whipping, branding (burning the skin), and other forms of torture (pain) to keep control. They would treat them like children to keep the slaves ignorant (not smart) feel dependent on the masters. Slaves were not allowed to read or write in order to limit their knowledge outside the plantation.

## Resistance to Slavery

Despite the efforts of the slaveholders to crush their spirits, slaves found ways to resist slavery.

### Day to Day Resistance

Most slaves resisted in ways that were passive (quiet). Slaves that worked on the field would pull down the fences, break tools or do sloppy work that would damage the crops. House slaves would sneak out food from their master's kitchen.

### Open Defiance

Some slaves were more open about their resistance. They refused to work or take orders. Unfortunately the slaves would be punished. Some slaves would even poison their owner's food. Some slaves would set their owners homes and farms on fire.

### Running Away

Some slaves tried to escape by running away to freedom in the North. This was very risky. Slave owners would hire professional slave catchers to hunt down the slaves. Slave hunters used dogs. If the runaway slave were caught, slaves could be mauled by their dogs, brutally whipped or even killed. Thousands escaped to Free states and Canada using the **Underground Railroad**, (secret roads/safe houses) worked by abolitionists (people against slavery)

### Rebellion

Violent rebellions would happen by groups of slaves. Slave rebellions occurred in cities, on plantations or ships at sea. In 1831, a slave name Nat Turner led a bloody rebellion in Virginia. It was called Nat Turner's Rebellion. Turner and his followers killed 57 people in two days. Southern states passed strict slave codes. These codes (laws) gave slave-owners more control of their slaves and punishments of slaves by authorities.

## \*Chapter 20 African Americans in the mid-1800's

### Introduction

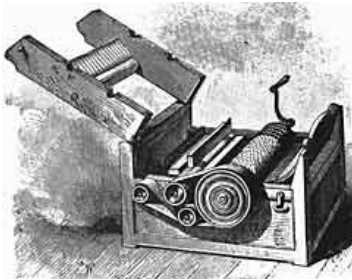
- By 1850, the population of the United States had grown to just over \_\_\_\_ million.
- This figure included \_\_\_\_ million \_\_\_\_\_.
- The majority of African Americans lived in \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ all African Americans were \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ million were free.

### North and South, Slave and Free

- The law defined slaves as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Slaveholders can do anything with their slaves. They could \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ slaves.
- As property, slaves had \_\_\_\_\_ that free people had.
- African Americans in the \_\_\_\_\_, lived much freer lives but still experienced \_\_\_\_\_

### Economics of Slavery

- Only \_\_\_\_\_ Southerner's plantation owners could afford to \_\_\_\_\_.
- The majority of Southerners did \_\_\_\_\_ own slaves.
- The cotton gin invention made \_\_\_\_\_ a profitable cash crop in the South.
- Bales of cotton increased from 3,000 bales (in 1790) compared to \_\_\_\_\_ bales a year (1850s).



Cotton engine - Cotton Gin



Slaves using the cotton gin



Bales of cotton

### Working Conditions of Slaves

- On small farms, they worked \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ in the fields.
- On large plantations, planters hired \_\_\_\_\_ to supervise slaves.
- About  $\frac{3}{4}$  were field hands that worked from dawn to \_\_\_\_\_ tending crops
- After dark, they still worked by: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Some slaves worked as seamstresses, \_\_\_\_\_ or blacksmiths. Or they worked in the master's house as \_\_\_\_\_ or servants.
- Most began work at the age of \_\_\_\_ and continued until they \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Slave \_\_\_\_\_, Slave \_\_\_\_\_."

## Controlling Slaves

- Slavery was a \_\_\_\_\_.
- To make this system work, slave owners had to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Harsh punishments: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Slave owners preferred to control their workforce by making slaves feel totally \_\_\_\_\_ on their \_\_\_\_\_, by treating them like grown-up children. They also kept their workers ignorant.

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