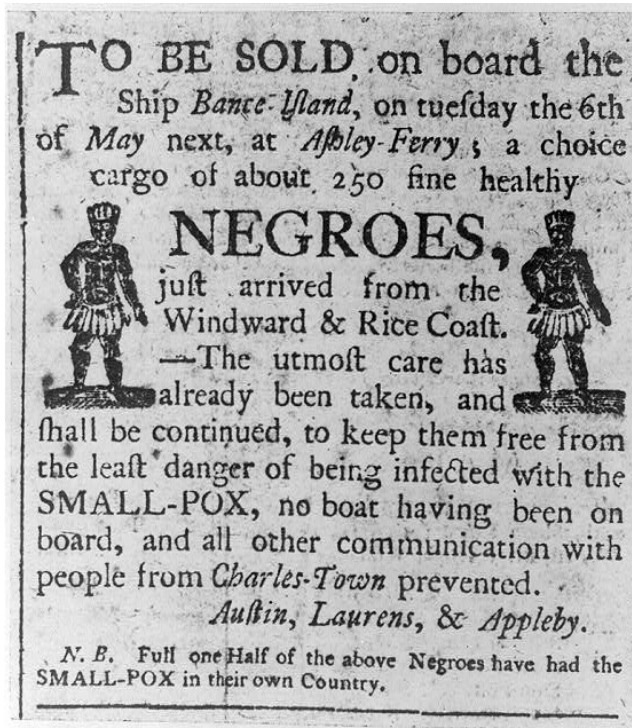


**Document Based Question: Slavery**  
**By: Deanna Jaroszeski**  
**Polk County Schools Grade 8**

During the first couple of centuries in American history the elite created a life of leisure for themselves and a life of servitude for black slaves from Africa. They were treated horribly as a possession and not as a human being.

Read the documents and study the pictures below. For each document answer the questions that follow. After reading the documents and answering the questions write a composition that explains how slaves were treated by the wealthy white plantation owners.

**Document A: Sales advertisement for a ship full of slaves**



1.) According to the advertisement, what is the product that is being sold?

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2.) What disease are they trying to prevent?

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# **\$200 Reward.**

RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of Thursday, the 30th of September.

## **FIVE NEGRO SLAVES,**

To-wit: one Negro man, his wife, and three children.

The man is a black negro, full height, very erect, his face a little thin. He is about forty years of age, and calls himself *Washington Reed*, and is known by the name of Washington. He is probably well dressed, possibly takes with him an ivory headed cane, and is of good address. Several of his teeth are gone.

*Mary*, his wife, is about thirty years of age, a bright mulatto woman, and quite stout and strong.

The oldest of the children is a boy, of the name of FIELDING, twelve years of age, a dark mulatto, with heavy eyelids. He probably wore a new cloth cap.

MATILDA, the second child, is a girl, six years of age, rather a dark mulatto, but a bright and smart looking child.

MALCOLM, the youngest, is a boy, four years old, a lighter mulatto than the last, and about equally as bright. He probably also wore a cloth cap. If examined, he will be found to have a swelling at the navel.

Washington and Mary have lived at or near St. Louis, with the subscriber, for about 15 years.

It is supposed that they are making their way to Chicago, and that a white man accompanies them, that they will travel chiefly at night, and most probably in a covered wagon.

A reward of \$150 will be paid for their apprehension, so that I can get them, if taken within one hundred miles of St. Louis, and \$200 if taken beyond that, and secured so that I can get them, and other reasonable additional charges, if delivered to the subscriber, or to THOMAS ALLEN, Esq., at St. Louis, Mo. The above negroes, for the last few years, have been in possession of Thomas Allen, Esq., of St. Louis.

**WM. RUSSELL.**

3.) According to the news article, who is William Russell willing to pay a \$200 reward for?

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4.) Why is a reward being offered?

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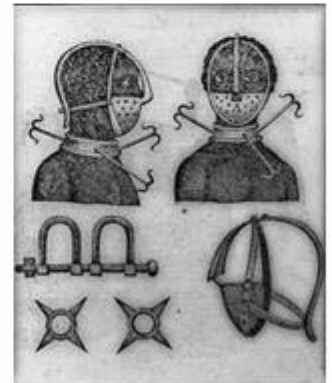
5.) Who are the escaped slaves?

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# Slave Labor



- **Grew tobacco, cotton, rice, indigo, and other crops.**
  - Little to eat; meager dwellings.
- **Treated cruelly but masters tried not to harm their investment.**
  - Slaves encouraged to have large families
- **Many died from disease, torture, hard work**
  - But slave population continued to increase.



6.) What type of labor did the slaves do?

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7.) How did many slaves die?

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8.) Describe the types of restraints the slave owners used.

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**Document D : Runaways, Excerpt from 1001 Things Everyone  
Should Know About African American History**

**104- The First Runaways**

Since the first arrival of Africans to British North America, enslaved men and women have attempted to escape bondage by running away. In the seventeenth century Black and white indentured servants often tried to escape together. In 1640 a Black slave who, with six white indentured servants, tried to steal a small ship stocked with food and weapons and was charged with conspiracy to escape. That same year a Black servant ran away with two white servants and was sentenced to lifetime servitude for his action.

- 9.) Why are the black men, women, children and indentured servants determined to escape slavery by running away knowing the punishment if they get caught?

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- 10.) How did the slaves try to escape?

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**Document E : Peter Williams, Jr.  
Hymn #1**

- 11.) What is the background of the author of the hymn below?

- 12.) What does the second verse of the Hymn tell you about slavery?

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## SLAVERY IN THE FOUNDING ERA

### Peter Williams, Jr. (c.1780-1840)

Son of a slave who fought in the American Revolution, Peter Williams, Jr. became the first black Episcopalian priest and a leader in the American abolitionist movement. Based in New York City, he established St. Philip's African Church in 1819, helped found the first African American newspaper (*Freedom's Journal*) in 1827 and the Phoenix Society to support black education in 1833, preached, wrote, and occasionally stirred controversy. In 1834, amidst white backlash at abolitionists and rumors that Williams had performed interracial marriages, rioters burned his church and he was forced to resign from the board of the New York Anti-Slavery Society. Though he supported African colonization projects and refuge communities in Canada, Williams continued to hope that eventually America would include Blacks as equals.

These two hymns were published with William Hamilton's *Address to the New York African Society, for Mutual Relief, delivered in the Universalist Church, January 2, 1809*, and were sung during the service held to celebrate the first anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. In the first hymn, for all his gratitude, Williams focuses his listeners on the larger political message: "All men are free by right / Of Nature's laws."

#### HYMN I

To the Eternal Lord,  
By saints on earth ador'd  
And saints above.  
Let us glad honors rear,  
In strains of praise and pray'r  
His glorious name declare,  
The God of Love.

When the oppressor's hands  
Bound us in iron bands  
Thou didst appear.  
Thou saw our weeping eyes,  
And list'ning to our cries,  
In mercy didst arise,  
Our hearts to cheer.

Thou did'st the trade o'erthrow,  
The source of boundless woe,  
The world's disgrace,  
Which ravag'd Afric's coast,  
Enslav'd its greatest boast,  
A happy num'rous host,  
A harmless race.

In diff'rent parts of earth  
Thou called the Humane forth,  
Our rights to plead,  
Our griefs to mitigate,  
And to improve our state,  
An object truly great,  
Noble indeed.

Thou didst their labours bless,  
And gave them great success,  
In Freedom's cause.  
They prov'd to every sight  
By truth's unerring light,  
All men are free by right  
Of Nature's laws.

They to insure our bliss,  
Taught us that happiness  
Is from above.  
That it is only found  
On this terrestrial ground,  
Where virtuous acts abound,  
And Mutu'l Love.

(1809)

Part 2

**In this part of the assignment you will write a three to five paragraph composition describing slavery in the early United States. You must include information from each of the documents as well as what you know about slavery.**