

Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Presentations, Quick Notes & Internet Activities

Chapter 9: Louisiana's Antebellum Politics, Commerce and Culture

Summary:

Students will learn about the lives of slaves in this lesson by examining primary sources and data from the 1800s.

Duration: 45-90 minutes

Notes:

- The first link is from the Library of Virginia; however, the site has a great exhibit for examining primary source material on slavery.
- In Part I, demonstrate to students how to navigate the website. It may be helpful to show students the different information available when one chooses the “high res” link versus the “transcription” link. The “high res” link allows one to zoom and pan across the artifact. The “transcription” link provides a typed transcript of the document that would be easier for 21st century students to read.
- Encourage students to view the other artifacts on the link in Part I before proceeding to Part II.
- In Part II, the slavery map shows each county in Louisiana and the percent of the population in slavery. Direct student to the map key in the bottom-right corner to help them interpret the map's data.
- The Library of Congress map is a bit tricky to navigate without some instruction. Suggest to students the following strategy:
 - Click the button for “640x480.”
 - Click one of the middle buttons between “Zoom In” and “Zoom Out.”
 - Click on the Zoom View map.
 - Notice how the Zoom View section enlarges for a closer view. Then, look at the Navigation View. The area enclosed by the red box matches that shown in the Zoom View.
 - Click a different area in the Navigation View to move the Zoom View. Click the buttons closer to “Zoom In” and then click the Zoom View map to see details.
 - Remind students to view the key and other map data in addition to the map itself.

Answer Key:

1. The purpose of the document was to record the sale of an enslaved woman and her son from one owner to another.
2. 1854

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3. The document was needed to prove that payment had been made for a slave. It was a receipt just as one would get a receipt at a store when making a purchase today.
4. \$650
5. The note was important to ensure that the new owners did not feel that they had been deceived into buying a slave that was unhealthy.
6. The purpose of this document was to encourage people to come to a particular location to buy slaves.
7. 1812
8. eleven
9. Sample answer: The slave owner may desire young slaves because they would be considered stronger, healthier, and more likely to live longer.
10. The purpose of the map was to show the percentage of people in slavery in each county in the southern states.
11. 1861
12. U.S. Census
13. Answers will vary according to your school's parish.
14. Answers will vary according to your school's parish.
15. western or southwestern areas
16. Concordia parish; 91%
17. The statement might not be true because the map shows the percent of population in slavery not the total population. You would need to know the number of people in the parish to know if the statement were true.