

Questions for the Story of American Slavery

Watch the following video available on youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shm3CtkmNig>

Minutes 00:19-25

1. What problem did indentured servants present to colonial settlers?
2. Why was racial slavery a more attractive option than indentured servants for White settlers in colonial Virginia?
3. How were slaves viewed differently than White people?
4. What was the importance of the Royal African Company?
5. How did colonial law exempt slave owners from traditional criminal laws in the ways that they treated their slaves?

Minutes 44:30-54:00

1. Describe slave quarters in slave ships.
2. What did they do with slaves who died en route to the New World?
3. Why do you think some slaves dove overboard?
4. Why were slaves worked to death in Barbados rather than treated humanely?
5. Where in the colonies was this system from Barbados copied most closely?
6. What was the most unhealthy work for slaves?

Minutes 1:00-1:20

1. How did slave owners prevent slaves from escaping?
2. How were the slave revolters punished in Charleston?
3. Why do you think White slave owners felt it was okay to treat slaves in this manner?
4. What action did South Carolina take to change its racial balance to being more White?
5. What event or incidents were slaves blamed for in New York in 1741? How many slaves were accused of conspiracy and what happened to them? Why do you think White citizens were so quick to blame the slaves?