

Name _____ Date _____

SS-6 Study Guide Chapter 13 - Background to the Conflict

Lesson 2: Africans in Slavery and Freedom

1. From 1800 to 1860, slavery increased by how many?

In 1800, there were nearly 900,000 slaves in the U.S.
By 1860, there were nearly 4,000,000.

(Increase of 3,100,000)

2. What were slaves treated as?

Slaves were treated as property.

3. What helped the slaves survive the terrible treatment?

To help themselves survive, many formed close-knit communities. Families, friends, and neighbors helped one another, giving comfort and support. They tried to keep their traditions alive.

Religious beliefs gave them strength to handle the hardships.

Spirituals – religious songs based on Bible stories.

4. Name three ways slaves tried to resist their owners.

a. Quiet ways: (Non-violent) The slaves may have left a gate open, hid household goods, break tools, or let boats drift away. They made the damage appear as an accident.

b. Some acted as if they did not understand what they had been told.

c. Violent ways: Rebellion

5. Who was Nat Turner and what happened to him?

Nat Turner was an enslaved African who led an attack that killed 57 people. Among the dead was Turner's owner and the owner's family. Slave owners trying to end the rebellion killed more than 100 slaves. Turner and the other leaders of the rebellion were caught, put on trial, and hanged.

Name _____ Date _____

6. Who was John Brown and what happened to him?

John Brown was a white abolitionist, who, with a group of followers seized a government warehouse in Harpers Ferry. The storehouse was filled with guns. Brown had planned to give the guns to the slaves so that they could fight for their freedom. Brown was caught, put on trial and hanged for his actions.

7. Where did the runaway slaves try to reach?

Runaway slaves tried to reach free land in the Northern states, Canada, or Mexico.

8. What was the system of escape routes leading to free land called?

The Underground Railroad – most routes led from the South to the Northern states and to Canada. Some led to Mexico and to the Caribbean.

9. Who were the conductors?

Members of the Underground Railroad were called conductors. Conductors led runaways from one hiding place to the next along the routes. The hiding places – barns, attics, and secret rooms - were called stations.

10. Who was a famous conductor?

Harriet Tubman was a famous conductor of the UG RR.

11. Even for the **free** Africans, what was life like?

- A few free Africans were members of families that had been free since colonial times or since the American Revolution.
- Some had been former slaves who had been freed by their owners.
- Some had bought their freedom.
- Some had reached freedom by running away.
- Many Africans lived in cities when they had a better chance of finding a job.
- They worked in many different professions.
- For most Africans, life was difficult, no matter where they lived.
- They were unwelcome in many places and often were treated unfairly.
- State laws in both the North and the South gave them little freedom.
- Unable to vote or meet in groups.
- They could not attend certain schools or hold certain jobs.
- Some Africans were wrongly accused of being runaways.
- Some were taken and sold into slavery.