

Day 3 – The slave trade.



Day 3 – Slavery retrieval questions.

History of the slave trade

In one form or another slavery has been practiced since the earliest civilizations. Once men gathered in towns and there was more than enough food, having a cheap supply of labour made sense. This is when the earliest forms of slavery appeared. The main source of slaves was war. When a town was captured, the men were killed and the women were enslaved to work in the fields or as concubines.

Africa

For four centuries, beginning in the late 15th century, millions of Africans were taken as slaves by Europeans. Europeans began exporting Africans to the New World as a source of cheap labour on colonial plantations. This was called the Atlantic slave trade. Even before outside slave traders took advantage of Africans, the Africans themselves had established slave trading. Theirs was not an economy based on money, but on trading. Slaves were a Commodity (a substitute for money).

Slave sales

Enslaved people were often sold at markets and auctions. Slave auctions show that the enslaved people were not thought of as human beings with human rights. Instead, they were thought of as property, which could be bought or sold. Enslaved people that were for sale were often advertised in the newspapers, like today's newspapers advertise cars or houses. Slave traders were even listed in public directories.

Day 3 – Practice retrieval answers.

1. What was the trigger for the start of slavery?
2. What was the biggest source of new slaves?
3. Where were African slaves made to work?
4. What is a commodity?
5. Where could you buy a slave?
6. How does reading this make you feel? Why?

Day 3 – Practice retrieval answers.

1. What was the trigger for the start of slavery?

The growth of towns and an established agriculture.

2. What was the biggest source of new slaves?

Capturing people in war.

3. Where were African slaves made to work?

In colonial plantations.

4. What is a commodity? A substitute for money.

5. Where could you buy a slave? At a market or auction.

6. How does reading this make you feel? Why?