Slavery
THE STONE AGE

Hunter-gatherer societies did not have enough food to feed extra mouths, so did not have slaves.

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

All Ancient civilisations - whether in Europe, the Middle East, Asia or the Americas - made use of slavery.

Western slavery goes back 10,000 years to Mesopotamia (present day Iraq).

1807 – BRITAIN DECLARES SLAVE TRADE ILLEGAL

1808 – USA DECLARES SLAVE TRADE ILLEGAL

1833 – SLAVERY DECLARED ILLEGAL ACROSS THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

1861-65 – AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

THE TRANS ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

The Portuguese started the Atlantic slave trade, soon to be joined by the Spanish. Christopher Columbus’ conquest of the Caribbean virtually wiped out the native Indians. They were to be replaced by slaves brought from Africa.

MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Slavery often took place in the name of religion – Christians, Muslims and Jews all took part.

GROWTH OF ABOLITION MOVEMENT, 18TH CENTURY.
King Tegbesu of Dahomy, made around HK$3,000,000 from selling Africans in about 1750.

Sale of Slaves by Tribal chiefs

Prisoners of Tribal Wars.

Potential plotters against the Tribal chief

Kidnappings

Criminals

Royal Wives

Tegbesu is shown here entertaining some European slave traders.
Capture and the Middle Passage

- After capture, Africans were packed tightly into slave ships.
- The death rate of the “passengers” was 50%.
The Middle Passage
CHEAP MANUFACTURED GOODS

Trinkets – pots, pans, beads, shells, cloth

FIRST STAGE – EUROPE TO AFRICA
Cheap trinkets exchanged for slaves
Tribal chiefs exchange slaves, or slaves are captured

SLAVE TRADERS THEN SOLD THE SLAVES TO PLANTATION OWNERS

SLAVES WERE USED ON PLANTATIONS, GROWING SUGAR, TOBACCO, COTTON.

THE THIRD STAGE – RAW MATERIALS SENT TO EUROPE
Profits from slave sales were used to buy produce from the plantations eg. sugar, tobacco, cotton, which were sold for great profit in Europe.

THE MIDDLE PASSAGE – THE JOURNEY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC...

SLAVES WERE USED ON PLANTATIONS, GROWING SUGAR, TOBACCO, COTTON.

Brazil

Mexico

Caribbean Islands

U.S.A.
Destination, Auction, and Seasoning

- Most Africans landed in Brazil with the least number landing in North America.
- Slaves were auctioned off to the highest bidder.
- Slaves were put through a process of “seasoning” to get them ready for work.
- They learned an European language, were named an European name, and were shown labor requirements.
The Beginnings of Slavery in the United States

- The Portuguese and Spanish had already brought Africans to South and Latin America.
- In 1619, the first Africans were brought to the colony of Jamestown, Virginia by the Dutch.
Why Not Enslave the Native Population?

- Native Americans were highly likely to catch European diseases.
- They were familiar with the terrain and could escape easier.
- They had political allies that could fight against the “owners.”
Reasons for Using Enslaved African Labor

- Proximity - It only took 2-6 weeks to get to the colonies from the Caribbean at first.
- Experience - They had previous experience and knowledge working in sugar and rice production.
- Immunity from diseases - Less likely to get sick due to prolonged contact over centuries.
- Low escape possibilities - They did not know the land, had no allies, and were highly visible because of skin color.
Anthony Johnson

- He was an African brought to the colonies in the 1620s.
- He obtained his freedom, and purchased 250 acres of land in Virginia.
- He owned at least one slave and white indentured servants.
- This shows that blacks were not thought of strictly as slaves until the 1660s.
Slavery in the Colonies

- New England colonies-no large plantation systems; slaves lived in cities and small farms
- Chesapeake Bay colonies-large tobacco plantations; center of the domestic slave trade
- Carolinas and Georgia-large rice and cotton plantations
The Effects of the American Revolution and the Constitution

- Gradual abolition of slavery in the northern colonies
- End of the Atlantic Slave Trade in 1808
- Entrenchment of slavery in the South with the invention of the cotton gin in 1793 by Eli Whitney
Life of a Slave

- Most slaves had Sundays off and they went to church.
- Most slaves could not read or write, and it was illegal for them to learn.
- Slave Codes-They could not: leave their home without a pass, carry a weapon, gather in groups, own property, legally marry, defend themselves against a white person, or speak in court.
Resistance

- Flight-Slaves would runaway.
- Truancy-Flight for a short amount of time and then the slave came back.
- Refusal to reproduce-Women refused to have children.
- Covert Action-Slaves would sometimes kill animals, destroy crops, start fires, steal stuff, break tools, poison food.
Violence

- 4 major slave revolts-
  - Stono Rebellion-failed revolt in South Carolina in 1739
  - Gabriel Prosser-led failed revolt in Virginia in 1800
  - Denmark Vessey-led failed revolt in South Carolina in 1822
  - Nat Turner-killed 60 white people in Virginia in 1831
Punishment

- Slaves were often brutally punished for misbehaving.
- Punishments included: whipping, branding, being sold, gagged (silence), and other torturous methods were used.
Compromise of 1850

- California comes in the Union (United States) as a free state
- Utah and New Mexico territories are created-no mention of slavery
- Outlaws slave trade in Washington, D.C.
- Fugitive Slave Act-requires northerners to return escaped slaves to masters
The Dred Scott Decision

- Dred Scott was a slave who was taken to a free territory by his owner.
- He sued for his freedom because he lived in the free territory.
- His case went all the way to the Supreme Court, where Scott loses because he was not considered a citizen, thus could not sue in federal court. (He was “property” and could be taken anywhere.)
Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860 without any southern electoral votes.

Many southern states quickly seceded from the Union, South Carolina leading the way.

Southern troops fired upon Fort Sumter, starting the Civil War.

The North fought to preserve the Union, while the South fought to preserve slavery.
The Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation

- Early in the war, Lincoln began to think about ending slavery in the South to help end the war.
- On September 22, 1862 he issued the Emancipation Proclamation which declared an end to slavery in the states in rebellion on January 1, 1863.
- What did it do? Nothing. It only freed slaves in the states that had seceded.
End of the Civil War and the 13th Amendment

- The South lost, and the states were forced to accept the 13th Amendment to the Constitution before they could be readmitted into the Union.
- 13th Amendment - It abolished slavery in the United States.
- It was ratified in 1865.
The End