***Slavery in the United States***

When the North American continent was first colonized by Europeans, the land was **vast**, the work was harsh, and there was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(1)** shortage of labor. Men and women were needed to work the land. White bond servants, paying their passage across the ocean from Europe through indentured labor, **eased** but did not solve the problem. Early in the seventeenth century, a Dutch ship loaded with African slaves introduced a solution—and a new problem—to the New World. Slaves. They were most economical on large farms where labor-intensive cash crops, such as tobacco, could be grown.

By the end of the American Revolution, slavery had proven **unprofitable** in the North and was dying out. Even in the South the institution was becoming less useful to farmers as tobacco prices **fluctuated** and began to drop. However, in 1793 Northerner Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin; this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(2)** made it possible for textile mills to use the type of cotton most easily grown in the South.

The slave market in Atlanta, Georgia, 1864 (Library of Congress)

Cotton replaced tobacco as the South’s main cash crop and slavery became profitable again. Although most Southerners owned no slaves at all, by 1860 the South’s “peculiar institution” was inextricably tied to the region’s economy.

Torn between the economic benefits of slavery and the moral and constitutional issues it raised, white Southerners grew more and more **defensive** of the institution. They argued that black people, like children, were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(3)**  of caring for themselves and that slavery was a **benevolent** institution that kept them fed, clothed, and occupied. Most Northerners did not doubt that black people were inferior to whites, but they did doubt the benevolence of slavery. The voices of Northern **abolitionist**s, such as Boston editor and publisher William Lloyd Garrison, became increasingly violent. Educated blacks such as escaped-slave Frederick Douglass wrote eloquent and heartfelt attacks on the institution.

The Underground Railroad was organized to help slaves escape north to freedom. Uncle Tom’s Cabin, written in 1852 by Harriet Beecher Stowe, **refuted** the Southern myth that blacks were happy as slaves.

In reality, treatment of slaves ranged from mild and paternalistic to cruel and sadistic. Husbands, wives, and children were frequently sold away from one another and punishment by whipping was not unusual. The United States Supreme Court in the 1857 Dred Scott Decision ruled that slaves were subhuman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(4)** with no rights of citizenship. They had no legal means of protesting the way they were treated. Southerners feared open rebellion but this was rare. However, slaves would **pretend** illness, organize slowdowns, sabotage farm machinery, and sometimes commit arson or murder. Running away, usually for short periods of time, was common.

Slaves work in Sea Islands, South Carolina. (Library of Congress)

The outbreak of the Civil War forever changed the future of the American nation. The war began as a struggle to preserve the Union, not a struggle to free the slaves, but many in the North and South felt that the conflict would ultimately decide both issues. Many slaves escaped to the North in the early years of the war, and several Union generals established abolitionist policies in the Southern land that they conquered. Congress passed laws **permitting** the seizure of slaves from the property of rebellious Southerners. On September 22, 1862, following the dramatic Union victory at Antietam, President Abraham Lincoln presented the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

This document decreed that, by the power of the United States armed forces, all slaves in states that were still in rebellion one hundred days after September 22 would be "thenceforward and forever free." Furthermore, Lincoln \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(5)** an institution through which blacks could join the U.S. Army, an unprecedented level of integration at that time. The United States Colored Troops (USCT) served on many battlefields, won numerous Medals of Honor, and ensured eventual Union victory in the war.

On December 6, 1865, eight months after the end of the Civil War, the United States adopted the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which outlawed the practice of slavery.

***Unit 1 Reading and vocabulary assignment 1.3***

**Vocabulary assignment 1.3.1 :**

*You might have noticed that the text includes 10 words that are written in bold and that five words are missing. Try to match the English meanings to the right words* ***and*** *fill in the missing words. You are allowed to use the text, it might help you.*

1. persons who supported an end to slavery
2. to prove a statement, opinion, or belief to be wrong or false
3. unable to do something
4. to make or become less severe, difficult, unpleasant, or painful
5. a thing or things owned by someone; a possession or possessions
6. extremely large
7. to change or vary frequently between one level or thing and another
8. intended to protect against attack or harm
9. not resulting in profit
10. behave so as to make it appear that something is the case when in fact it is not
11. an object or machine that has been invented to fulfill a particular purpose
12. causing great pain, difficulty, damage, etc.; very serious
13. kind and helpful
14. to start something that will last for a long time, or to create or set something in a particular way
15. Officially allow (someone) to do something

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **refuted** |  | **9. defensive** |  |
| 1. **abolitionists** |  | **10. severe** |  |
| 1. **vast** |  | **11. fluctuated** |  |
| 1. **unprofitable** |  | **12. eased** |  |
| 1. **benevolent** |  | **13. device** |  |
| 1. **established** |  | **14. property** |  |
| 1. **pretend** |  | **15. permitting** |  |
| 1. **incapable** |  |  |  |

**Vocabulary assignment 1.3.2:** *Match the right Dutch translation to these fifteen words.*

1. Zeer groot
2. Protesteren, tegenspreken
3. Nadelig, ongunstig
4. Toestaan
5. Fluctueren, telkens verschillend zijn
6. Defensief, verdedigend
7. Ernstig, serieus
8. Beweren, doen alsof

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **refuted** |  | **9. defensive** |  |
| 1. **abolitionists** |  | **10. severe** |  |
| 1. **vast** |  | **11. fluctuated** |  |
| 1. **unprofitable** |  | **12. eased** |  |
| 1. **benevolent** |  | **13. device** |  |
| 1. **established** |  | **14. property** |  |
| 1. **pretend** |  | **15. permitting** |  |
| 1. **incapable** |  |  |  |

1. Goedgunstig
2. Apparaat
3. Verlichten (van werk)
4. Incapabel, niet in staat
5. Tegenstander van slavernij
6. Oprichten, instellen
7. Eigendom

**Vocabulary assignment 1.3.3 A:** *Now try to find the meaning of the words marked in yellow. Write them down below.*

1. *Passage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
2. *Replaced \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
3. *Profitable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
4. *Raised \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
5. *Occupied \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
6. *Inferior \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
7. *Eloquent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
8. *Arson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
9. *Preserve \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
10. *Outlawed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*