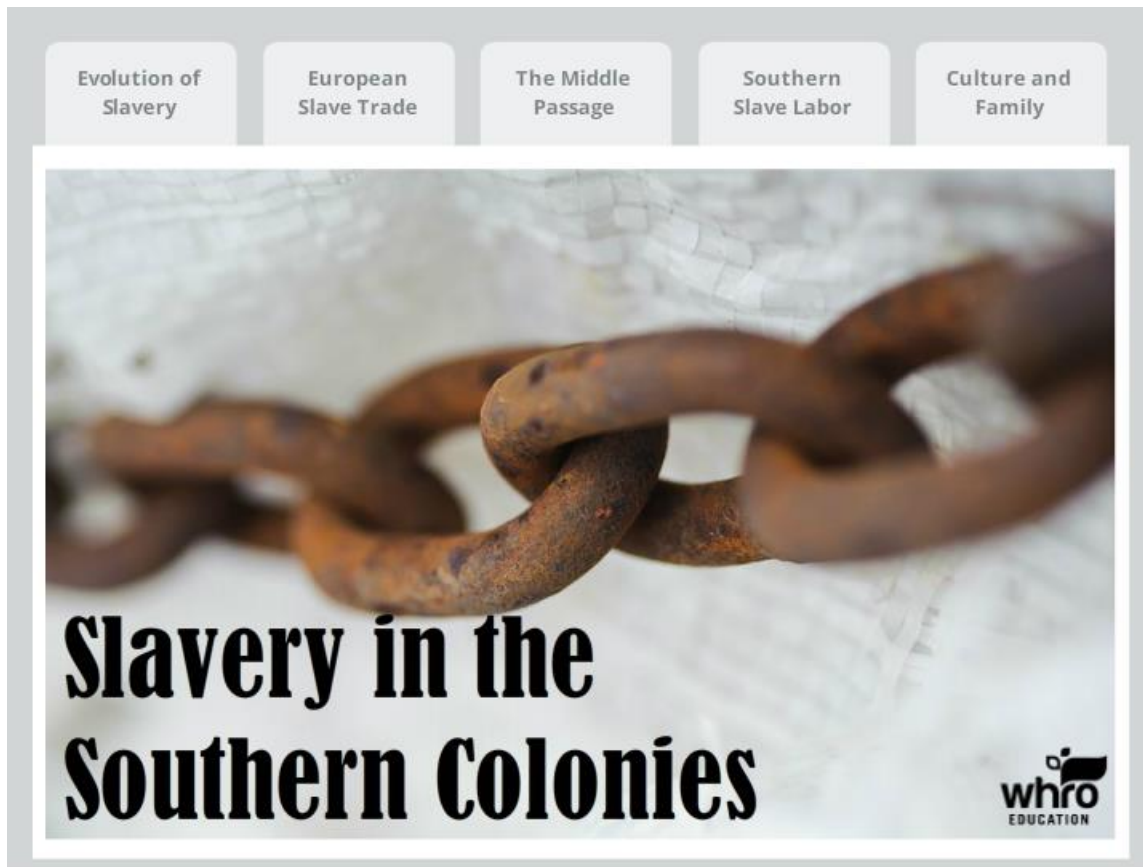


Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: Slavery in the Southern Colonies Notes

Introduction



The image shows an interactive interface for a lesson. At the top, there are five navigation tabs: "Evolution of Slavery", "European Slave Trade", "The Middle Passage", "Southern Slave Labor", and "Culture and Family". Below the tabs is a large image of a rusty, thick metal chain. Overlaid on the bottom left of the image is the title "Slavery in the Southern Colonies" in a large, bold, black serif font. In the bottom right corner of the image area is the "whro EDUCATION" logo, which consists of the letters "whro" in a lowercase, sans-serif font with a stylized leaf icon above the "o", and the word "EDUCATION" in a smaller, uppercase, sans-serif font below it.

In this interactivity, click on each of the tabs to learn about slavery in the Southern colonies.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: Slavery in the Southern Colonies Notes

Evolution of Slavery

Evolution of Slavery

European Slave Trade


The Middle Passage

Southern Slave Labor

Culture and Family

Evolution of Slavery

In the early days of the colonies, the English forced the Native Americans to work for them. Forcing the Natives into slavery was not a new idea: Christopher Columbus and the Spanish forced the natives to work as Spain colonized the West Indies. In the American colonies, the Native Americans were reluctant to learn the English labor techniques. Native Americans were not easy to enslave. Their knowledge of the terrain allowed for easy escape.



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Learning of the horrible working conditions in the colonies, the number of indentured servants decreased. This created a need for a new labor force and the price of indentured servants rose significantly. To increase the labor force, the English turned to African slaves as an alternative to indentured servants and Native Americans.

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European Slave Trade

Evolution of Slavery **European Slave Trade** The Middle Passage Southern Slave Labor Culture and Family

European Slave Trade



Africans had been laboring as slaves in the West Indies, before the large-scale importation of slaves to the American colonies. During the late 1600s, the English plantation owners in Jamaica and Barbados imported tens of thousands of slaves to work in their sugar plantations. By the year 1690, the African population of Barbados was estimated at 60,000. This was three times greater than the white population on the Island. During the 17th century, Africans had become part of a transatlantic trading network described as the triangular trade.

"The Slave Trade" by Auguste François Biard

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Merchants carried rum and other goods from the New World to Europe. Europe took goods and merchandise to Africa in order to trade for enslaved people. The slaves were carried to the West Indies and sold for sugar and molasses. The sugar and molasses were shipped back to New England and used in rum distilleries. Slaves also continued from the West Indies to the New World via the Middle Passage. The triangular trade encompassed a network of trade routes that crisscrossed the Northern and Southern colonies, the West Indies, England, Europe, and Africa. The network of trade carried many goods, such as furs, fruit, tar, tobacco, and African slaves.

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The Middle Passage

Evolution of Slavery European Slave Trade **The Middle Passage** Southern Slave Labor Culture and Family

The Middle Passage Hover your cursor over each of the markers on the map to learn about triangular trade and the Middle Passage.



Hover your cursor over each of the markers on the map to learn about triangular trade and the Middle Passage.

Europe to Africa: Goods were carried from Europe to Africa in order to trade for slaves.

The Middle Passage: Slaves were carried from Africa to the West Indies and the New World. For identification purposes, European slaves were branded with a red-hot iron. The slaves were transported in the cramped and dark holds of ships. During the voyage, Africans experienced horrible conditions and were beaten and whipped. Many of the slaves fell victim to disease and died. An estimated 20 % of slaves failed to complete the journey.

Return to Europe: Rum and other goods were brought from the New World to Europe.

Slave Ships: Slaves traveling through the Middle Passage experienced horrible conditions. They were cramped into the hold of ships.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: Slavery in the Southern Colonies Notes

Southern Slave Labor

Evolution of Slavery ✓


European Slave Trade ✓

The Middle Passage ✓

Southern Slave Labor ✓

Culture and Family

Southern Slave Labor



Slaves arrive in Jamestown

The first African laborers were transported to Jamestown in 1619. Countless numbers of enslaved Africans would follow. Once in America, most slaves worked in the fields. On the large plantations located in the Southern colonies, a white slave owner would direct the work of slaves. In smaller plantations and farms, the white slave owner and slaves would work alongside each other. A smaller number of slaves on the plantation would work in the houses of their owners. These slaves performed tasks such as cooking, cleaning, and raising the plantation owners' children. Other slaves worked as artisans, carpenters, blacksmiths, and bricklayers.

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As a slave, full-time work began around the age of 12, and ended at death. During their life-time of service, slaves were whipped and beaten by the slave owners if they were disobedient or disrespectful. In Virginia, courts did not find slave owners guilty for the murder of any slaves that took place during punishment.

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Culture and Family

Evolution of Slavery European Slave Trade The Middle Passage Southern Slave Labor **Culture and Family**

Culture and Family



Most families were separated as a result of the slave trade, so slaves established new families on the plantation. If a master sold a parent to another plantation, other slaves stepped in to help raise the children who were left behind. Enslaved Africans wove baskets and molded pottery, as they had done in their homeland. Slaves continued music traditions and kept ancestral stories alive.

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