

North and South

Lesson 4 People of the South

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do people adapt to their environment?

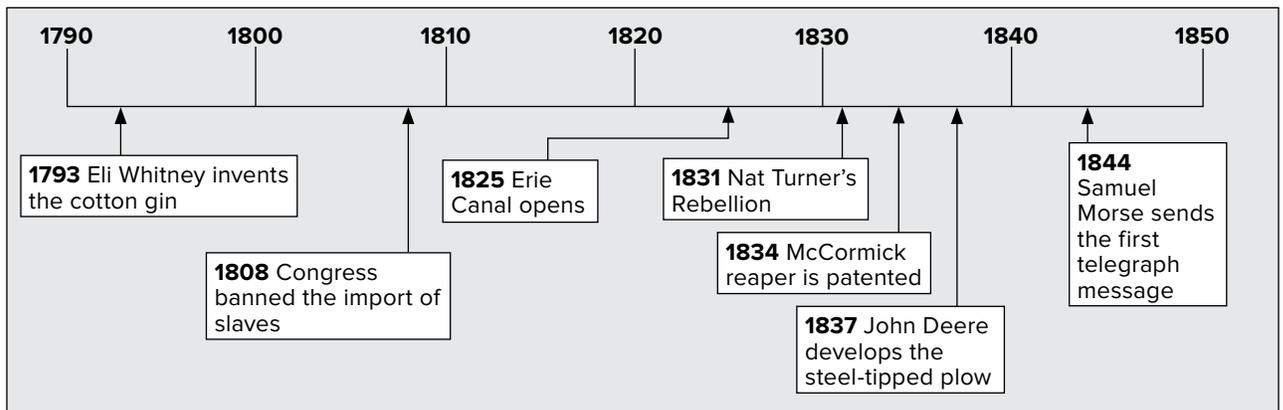
GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How were Southern farms different from Southern plantations?*
2. *How did enslaved African Americans try to cope with their lack of freedom?*
3. *What changes did urbanization introduce in the South by the mid-1800s?*

Terms to Know

- yeomen** farmers who owned small farms
- overseer** plantation manager
- spiritual** African American religious song
- slave codes** laws in Southern states that controlled enslaved people
- Underground Railroad** a system to aid the escape of enslaved people
- literacy** the ability to read and write

When did it happen?



What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now...		Later...
	What were Southern farms like in the 1800s?	
	What kind of family life did enslaved African Americans have?	

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Southern Agriculture

Slavery was at the center of the Southern economy. That does not mean that every white person owned large numbers of enslaved people. There were four main groups of white society. There were yeomen, tenant farmers, the rural poor, and plantation owners.

Most white people in the South were **yeomen** farmers. Yeomen farmers owned small farms. These farms were in the Upper South and in hilly parts of the Deep South. Yeomen farmers owned only a few enslaved people. Some owned no enslaved people. They grew crops for themselves and to trade for things they needed.

Tenant farmers did not own their land. They rented the land that they farmed. Yeomen farmers and tenant farmers were most of the white farmers in the south.

A few free African Americans kept enslaved workers. Some bought members of their own families. They did this in order to free them.

Plantations were large farms. They could be several thousand acres in size. Plantation owners wanted to earn as much money as they could. Large plantations cost a lot of money to run. There were fixed costs. Fixed costs are the costs of running a business. For example, the cost of housing and feeding workers is a fixed cost. Fixed costs stayed the same from year to year. The price of cotton changed from year to year. Owners sold cotton to earn money. Therefore, their earnings and profits were different from year to year.

The owners were usually men. Owners traveled often on business. Their wives ran the households. They managed the enslaved workers. They kept the financial records.

Enslaved people did many different jobs on the plantation. They cleaned the house, cooked, did laundry and sewing, and served meals. They were blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, or weavers. They took care of the or animals. Most enslaved African Americans worked in the fields. They worked from sunrise to sunset. An **overseer**, or plantation manager, was their boss in the fields.

The Lives of Enslaved People

Life was hard for most enslaved African Americans. They worked hard, earned no money, and had little hope of ever being free. They feared that an owner could sell them or members of their family. Even with all this, enslaved African Americans kept up



Listing

1. List the four groups of white society in the South in the 1800s.



Determining Cause and Effect

2. Why did many plantation wives manage the plantation alone?



Reading Check

3. Which group made up the largest number of whites in the South?

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Specifying

4. What kind of work did most enslaved African Americans do?



Explaining

5. Why did enslaved people need extended families?



Reading Check

6. How did African American spirituals develop?

their family lives as best they could. They developed a culture, or way of life. It blended African and American elements.

Enslaved people married and raised families. Still, there were no laws that could stop a slave owner from selling a family member. This broke the family apart.

If an owner sold an enslaved father or mother, then a relative or a close friend took care of the children left behind. Large, close-knit families became an important part of African American culture.

In 1808, Congress stopped new slaves from being brought into the United States. Slavery was still legal, however. By 1860, almost all the enslaved people in the South had been born there.

Enslaved people kept old African customs. They told traditional African folk stories to their children. They performed African music and dance.

Enslaved people created their own kind of music. They used their African music styles for the music. The beat of the music set the pace for their work in the fields.

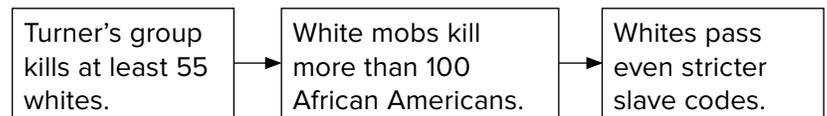
Many enslaved African Americans followed traditional African religious practices. Others accepted Christianity. Enslaved people expressed their beliefs through **spirituals**. These are African American religious folk songs.

The **slave codes** were laws in the Southern states. Slave codes controlled enslaved people. One purpose of the slave codes was to prevent slaves from rebelling. Slave codes prevented enslaved people from meeting in large groups. They needed a written pass to leave the slaveowner's property. It was a crime to teach enslaved people to read or write.

White people had reasons to fear slave rebellion. Enslaved African Americans did sometimes openly rebel.

Nat Turner was a popular religious leader among enslaved people. Turner had taught himself to read and write. In 1831, he led a group of followers on a brief, violent rebellion in Virginia.

Effects of Nat Turner's Rebellion



Enslaved people also resisted by running away. They ran away to find family members on other plantations. They ran away to escape punishment. Sometimes, enslaved African Americans ran North to

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freedom. Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass were two such people. They became important African American leaders.

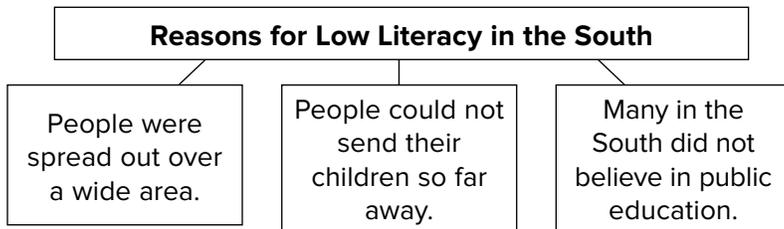
A runaway might receive aid from the **Underground Railroad**. This was a network of “safe houses” owned by people who were against slavery. The Underground Railroad helped enslaved people escape slavery.

Southern Cities

By the mid-1800s, the South had several large cities. Two cities were Baltimore and New Orleans. The ten largest Southern cities were seaports or river ports. Chattanooga, Montgomery, and Atlanta were cities that formed near railroads.

Free African Americans formed communities. They set up churches, businesses, and other institutions. They were not treated equally to whites in economic and political ways, though. They could not move freely from state to state.

In the early 1800s, there were no statewide public school systems in the South. There was less **literacy**, or the ability to read and write, in the South than in other parts of the country. People who had enough money sent their children to private schools. By the mid-1800s, North Carolina and Kentucky set up and ran public schools.



Check for Understanding

List two differences between Southern farms and plantations.

List two things enslaved African Americans did to help themselves cope with a lack of freedom.

Reading Check

7. What led to the growth of Southern cities?



8. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Create a memory map. Write: *How did enslaved people cope with their lack of freedom?* in the middle of the tab, and draw four arrows around the title. Use both sides of the tab to write words or phrases you remember about ways enslaved people adjusted their lives to survive. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

Glue Foldable here