

Civil War Grade 5

The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1 - 5). It is designed to test your ability to examine and interpret the meaning of the documents. Then you will write a final essay which uses important information from the documents you have analyzed.

Directions:

- Write an introductory paragraph.
- Use specific details from at least three documents in Part A.
- You may include any other outside information that you have learned.
- Finish with a concluding paragraph.

Historic Background: Throughout history, basic civil and human rights have been denied people through the actions of individuals, groups and governments. From the earliest colonial times until 1865, slavery existed in the United States. What was the purpose of slavery from the earliest colonial times until 1865?

Task:

For Part A, read **each** document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document. Then read the directions for Part B and write your essay.

For Part B, use your answers from Part A, information from the documents, and your knowledge of social studies to write a well organized essay. In the essay you should:

Discuss the purpose of slavery from colonial times until the Civil War and how slavery denied people their basic human rights.

Document 1:

“My master use towhip me. He would put my hands together and tie them. He would strip me naked – He would whip me one side till that was sore and full of blood and then he would whip me on the other side till that was all tore up.

1. What does this document say about the relationship of slave and master?

2. When slaves were whipped, what human right was being denied to the slaves?

Document 2

“A Tobacco Plantation”



1. Describe some of the tasks performed by the slaves.

2. What was the job of the overseer?

Document 3:

“We lodged in log huts on the bare ground. Wooden floors were an unknown luxury. Our beds were collections of straw and old rags, thrown down in corners and boxed with boards, a single blanket the only covering --- The wind whistled and the rain and snow blew in through the cracks, until the damp earth soaked in the moisture till the floor was a miry as a pigsty. Such were the houses.”

1. Identify two specific examples from the document that illustrate the poor living conditions endured by the slaves.

1) _____

2) _____

Document 4



“I was about twelve or fourteen years old when I was sold – I was a boy then big enough to work. I had a brother named John and a cousin by the name of Brutus. Both of them were sold and about three weeks later, it came my turn. On the day I left home, everything was sad among the slaves. My mother and my father sung and prayed over me and told me how to get along in the world.”

1. What power did the boy’s parents have over his future?
