



U.S. Slavery Comprehension

African Americans are a large part of why America is the country it is today but many of them did not choose this for themselves. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, people were kidnapped from Africa and forced into slavery in the American colonies. These Africans were forced to work as servants and labourers in the production of crops like tobacco and cotton.

It all started in 1619 when a privateer, "The White Lion" seized twenty African slaves from Sao Jao Bautista, a Portuguese ship, and brought them to the British colony of Jamestown, Virginia. From then, European settlers in North America used enslaved Africans to work their fields because they were cheaper and more efficient than European servants. Historians estimate that 6 to 7 million enslaved people were imported to the "New World" during the 18th century alone.

Slave owners wanted to make their slaves dependent on them so slaves were prohibited from learning to read and write. Any rebellious behaviour was brutally punished and marriage between enslaved men and women had no legal basis. While there were many attempts to start a slave rebellion few were successful. One notable revolt that terrified enslavers was led by Nat Turner in 1831 in Virginia. It wasn't until Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary emancipation proclamation on September 22, 1862, that "slaves... were forever free." The Emancipation Proclamation didn't totally end all slavery in America-but it opened a passage for the 13th Amendment after the Civil War ended in 1865.

When were the slaves first brought to America? _____

If slavery ended in 1865 how many years did slavery exist in America? _____

Why were slaves brought to America? Give 3 reasons:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Why is slavery wrong?

