

Group One Worksheet

Instructions:

- 1) Read all of the questions.
- 2) Examine all of your group's primary sources.
- 3) Discuss answers to the guiding questions before writing your group's answer to the Essential Question. The guiding questions will help your group respond to the Essential Question.
- 4) Present evidence from the primary sources to support your answer to the Essential Question!

Essential Question:

What social, legal and economic status did slaves have in the antebellum South?

Guiding Questions:

- How did the living conditions of plantation owners and slaves differ?
- What do Sarah Graves's memories tell you about the legal rights of slaves? Would the treatment she describes be legal today?
- How do you think slaves and plantation owners regarded one another?



Group One Primary Source Set
Primary Source #1 of 3



Group One Primary Source Set
Primary Source #2 of 3

so sick he couldn't work, so me and mama had to work hard. We lived in a kitchen, a room in a log house joined on to the master's house. My mama worked in the field, even when I was a little baby. She would lay me down on a pallet near the fence while she plowed the corn or worked in the field.

Start

"Stepfather and mama often tended their own tobacco and grain in the moonlight. This they could sell and have the money. We could go to church which was held in the school house. Sometimes they let us play with the other children after the noon dishes were washed and there wasn't anything else to do.

"There was most always something to do. Master never allowed nobody to be idle. Mama worked in the house and the fields too. At night after she come home from the field, she had to grate corn for the family next day. We didn't have many grist mills them days, an' we would punch holes in a piece of tin, and rub the ear of corn across it and make meal for our use.

"Nowadays, when you all want a nice wool dress, all you got to do is go to the store and get it", Aunt Sally commented, when asked to tell about their clothing.

"When I was growin' up an' wanted a nice wool dress, we would shear the sheep, wash the wool, card it, spin it and weave

MISSOURI
WODAWAY COUNTY
SEYMORE
EX-SLAVE STORIES
SARAH GRAVES

Page 6.

131

it. If we wanted it striped, we used two threads. We would color one by using herbs or barks. Sometimes we had it carded at a mill, an' sometimes we carded it ourselves. But when we did it, the threads were short, which caused us to have to tie the thread often, makin' too many knots in the dress. I have gathered the wool off the fences where it had been caught off the sheep, an' washed it, an' used it to make mittens.

"Yes'm. I worked in the fields, and I worked hard too. Plantin' and harvestin' in those days was really work. They used oxen to break up the ground for corn, an' for plowin' it too. They hoed the corn with a hoe, and cut the stalks with a hoe and shocked 'em. They cut the grain with the cradle and bound it with their hands, and shocked it. They threshed the grain with a hickory stick. Beating it out.

"I carried water for the field hands. I've carried three big buckets of water from one field to another, from one place to another; one in each hand and one balanced on my head.

"Yes'm. Some masters was good an' some was bad. My mama's master whipped his slaves for pastime. My master was not so bad as some was to their slaves. I've had many a whippin',] some I

End