

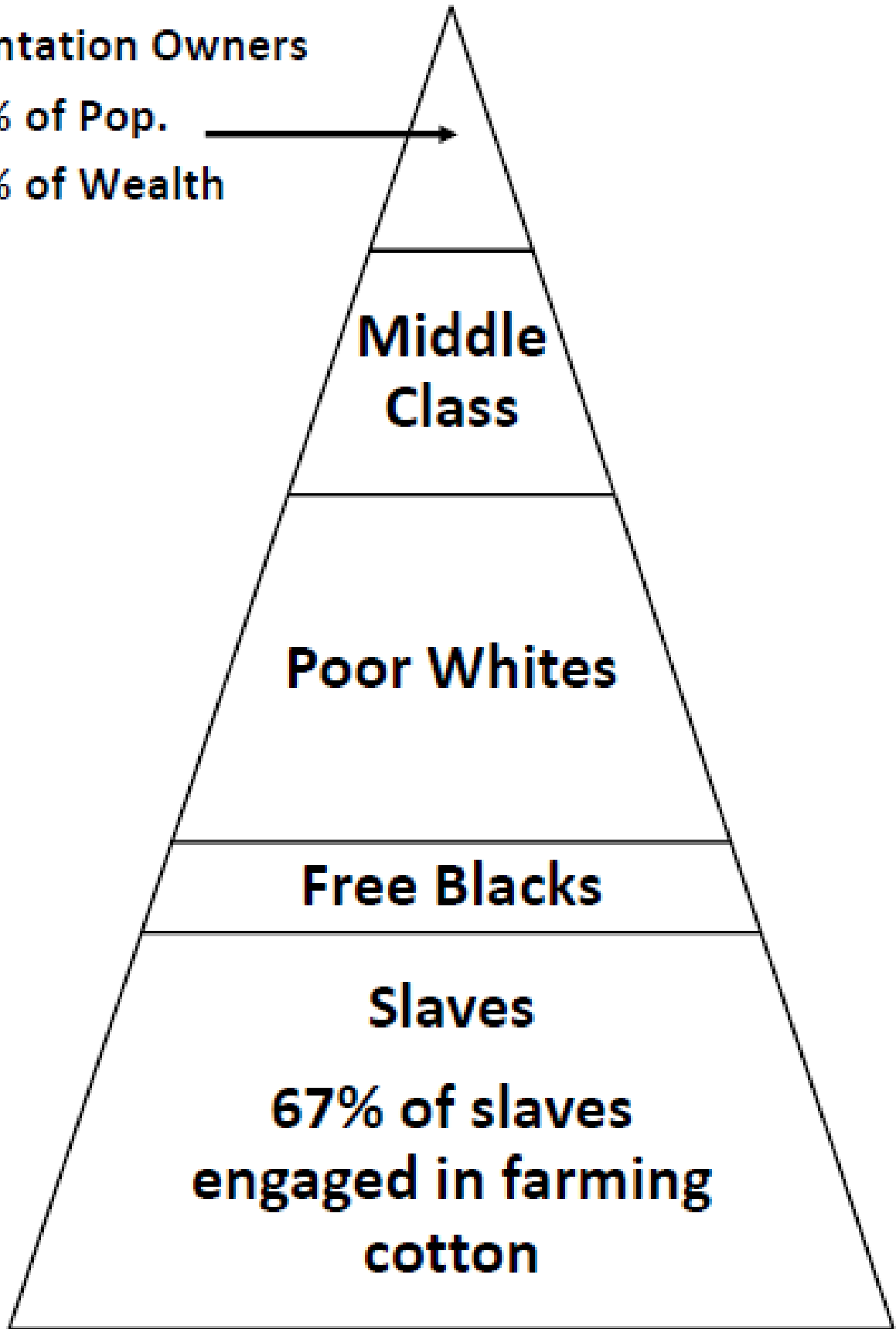
Sources on the “Peculiar Institution” of Slavery

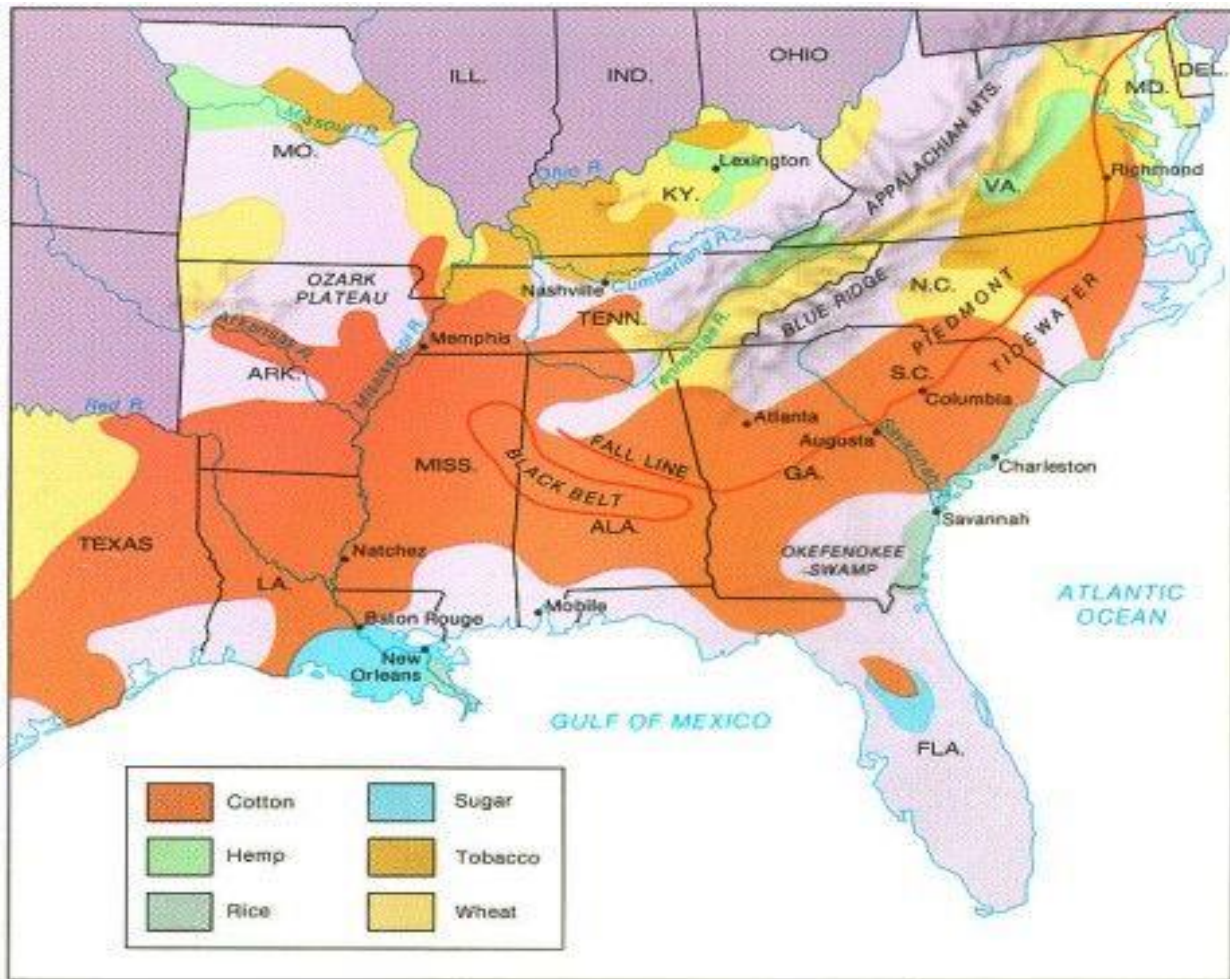
Source #1: Crops, Livestock, and Populations

Plantation Owners

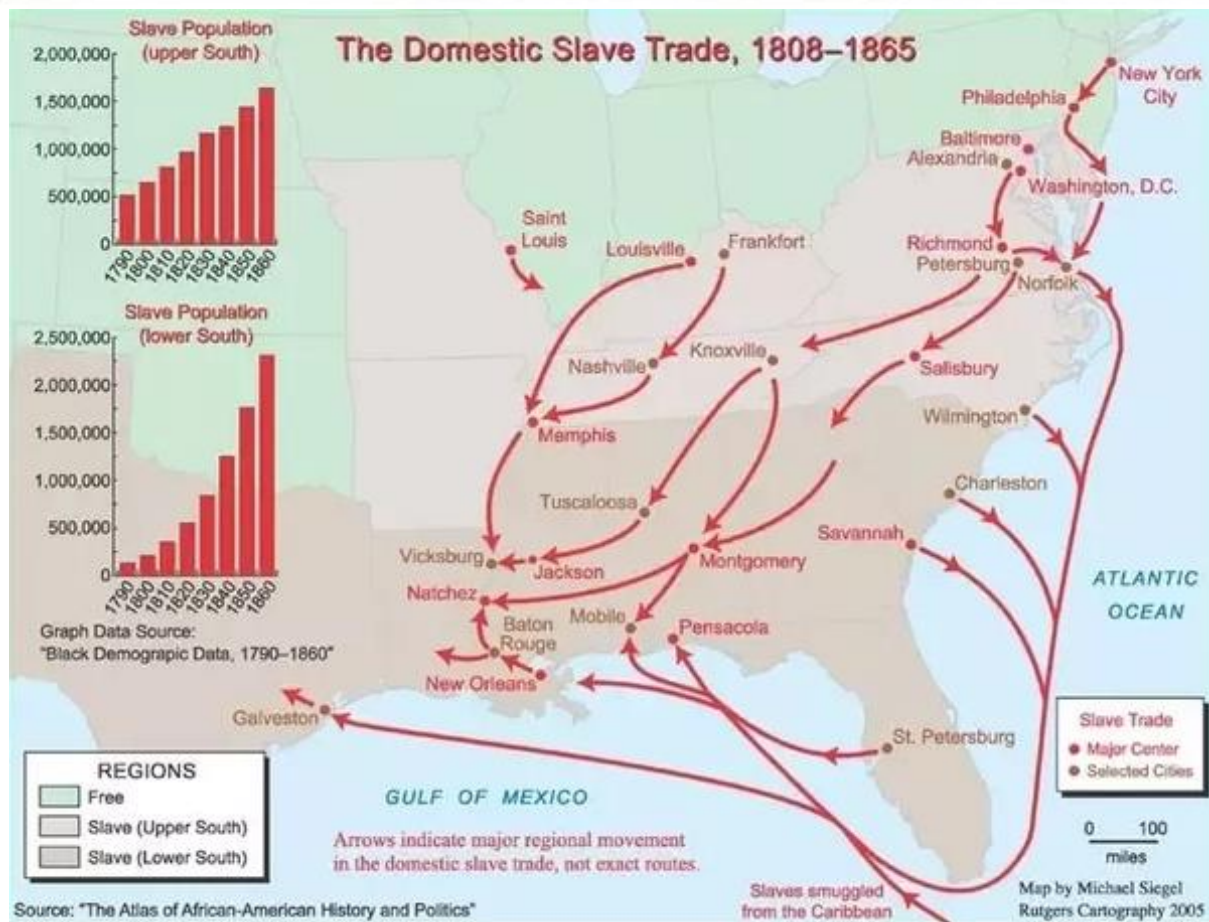
10% of Pop.

80% of Wealth





Cotton and the Other Crops of the South



Source: "The Atlas of African-American History and Politics"

Source #2: Slave Codes and Manumission

The United States Constitution never even uses the words *slavery* or *slave* yet this “peculiar institution” was a vital piece of the nation’s economy and the South’s culture. Instead of federal laws, each southern state had its own laws, or *slave codes*, restricting blacks’ rights and freedoms. These laws prohibited everything from learning to read to holding office to interracial marriages. They even restrict the movement of free slaves and limit the conditions under which slaves can be manumitted.

Manumission is the act of freeing, or emancipating, an individual slave. Some masters manumitted their slaves for good behavior or long service. Other slaves bought their own freedom – sometimes being forced to leave the state because they were suddenly excluded as a free black.

Southern states weren’t the only ones to place restrictions on blacks. Northern states maintained their own *black codes*.

Look over the list of laws and restrictions to answer the questions.

Year	Legal & Social Restrictions in Southern States	Purpose of Restriction
1815	Virginia Poll Tax	Required free Blacks to pay a \$2.50 tax so whites could vote
1816	Louisiana Jury Law	Provided that no Black slave could testify against a White person
1819	Missouri Literacy Law	Forbade assembling or teaching Black slaves to read or write
1820	South Carolina Migration Law	Prohibited free Blacks from entering the state
1826	North Carolina Migration Law	Forbade entry of free Blacks; violators fined \$500
1827	Florida Voting Law	Restricted voting to Whites
1829	Georgia Literacy Law	Provided a fine and imprisonment for teaching a Black person to read
1830	Louisiana Expulsion Law	Required all free Blacks to leave state within 60 days
1830	Mississippi Employment Law	Forbade Blacks employment in printing and entertainment
1830	Kentucky Property Tax Law	Taxed Blacks; Forbade their voting or attending school
1831	North Carolina License Law	Required all Black traders and peddlers to be licensed
1831	South Carolina Licensing Prohibition	Free Blacks were denied any kind of a business license
1831	Mississippi Preaching Law	Forbade Blacks to preach except with permission
1832	Alabama & Virginia Literacy Law	Fined and flogged Whites for teaching Blacks to read or write
1833	Georgia Literacy Law	Provided fines and whippings for teaching Blacks
1833	Georgia Employment Law	Prohibited Blacks from working in reading or writing jobs
1833	Kentucky Licensing Prohibition	No free person of color could obtain a business license
1835	Missouri Registration Law	Required the registration and bonding of all free Blacks
1835	Georgia Employment Law	Prohibited employing Blacks in drug stores
1837	South Carolina Curfew Law	Required Blacks to be off the street by a certain hour
1838	North Carolina Marriage Law	Declared void all interracial marriages to 3 rd generation
1841	South Carolina Observing Law	Forbade Blacks and Whites from looking out the same window
1844	South Carolina Amusement Law	Prohibited Blacks from playing games with Whites

City and County of New-York, ss. *Shmuel Moffet*

of the *fifth* Ward, of the said city, being duly sworn saith that he has long *known* years last past, *being* well acquainted with *Simon Lott* a *black* man, that the said *Simon* resides in the said city, that he is about the age of *forty* years, and was born at *Staten Island* in *the State of New York* as this deponent is informed and verily believes, that during all the said time whilst this deponent has been acquainted with the said *Simon* as aforesaid, the said *Simon* hath been reputed and considered to be free, and hath continually acted as a freeman during the said time, and that the said *Simon* became free in or before *the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven* as this deponent is also informed and believes. And further this deponent saith not.

SWORN the *29th* day of *April*, 1811. Before me *Shmuel & Moffet* *mark*

Peter Morris

CITY & COUNTY OF NEW-YORK, ss.

I *Peter Morris* one of the Aldermen of the City of New-York, and a Judge of the Court of Common pleas, called the Mayor's Court, in and for the said city, DO CERTIFY. That on this day *Simon Lott*

residing in the said city a *black* man exhibited proof before me, reduced to writing, of the freedom of him the said *Simon* and being satisfied with such proof, I am of opinion, and do adjudge that the said *Simon*

is free according to the laws of this state, and I DO FURTHER CERTIFY, that the said *Simon* is a person about *five* feet *five* inches high, has dark eyes *short black* Hair, that he is about the age of *forty* years, that he was born at *Staten Island* in *the State of New York* and that he became free in or before *the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven* as nearly as the same can be ascertained.

GIVEN under my hand, this *twenty ninth* day of *April* in the year one thousand eight hundred and eleven

Peter Morris

Source #3: The International and National Slave Trade

The Atlantic Slave Trade took at least 12 million people from the African continent. There was already a slave trade within the continent of Africa. Slaves in Africa were often prisoners of war and they or their children were freed after a number of years. Many tribal leaders participated in the slave trade, fighting wars to capture slaves to sell to traders on the coast. Slaves were kept in the dungeons of coastal forts and then loaded onto boats to cross the Atlantic. But New World slavery was vastly different from the slavery in Africa. Even the journey took its toll. An estimated one to two million enslaved Africans died en route. Far more slaves actually went to South America and the Caribbean than to the United States. Brazil alone imported four million slaves.

Once slaves arrived in the New World, they were auctioned off to the highest bidders – Planters or traders. Slaves were also sold at auction or to traders when masters were moving or needed money, or as punishment. At the height of the internal slave trade, around 1850, a healthy young man could sell for as much as \$1,000 to \$2,000, the equivalent of \$15,000 to \$40,000 by today's currency standards. The international slave trade was outlawed in 1808, but smugglers still brought new Africans in via the Caribbean, and within the country trade flourished, especially as cotton demanded more and more laborers in the Deep South.

Look over the documents and drawings to answer the questions.

BY
HEWLETT & BRIGHT.

SALE OF
VALUABLE
SLAVES,

(On account of departure)

The Owner of the following named and valuable Slaves, being on the eve of departure for Europe, will cause the same to be offered for sale, at the **NEW EXCHANGE**, corner of St. Louis and Chartres streets, on *Saturday*, May 16, at Twelve o'Clock, *viz.*

1. **SARAH**, a mulatress, aged 45 years, a good cook and accustomed to house work in general, is an excellent and faithful nurse for sick persons, and in every respect a first rate character.

2. **DENNIS**, her son, a mulatto, aged 24 years, a first rate cook and steward for a vessel, having been in that capacity for many years on board one of the Mobile packets; is strictly honest, temperate, and a first rate subject.

3. **CHOLE**, a mulatress, aged 36 years, she is, without exception, one of the most competent servants in the country, a first rate washer and ironer, does up lace, a good cook, and for a bachelor who wishes a house-keeper she would be invaluable; she is also a good ladies' maid, having travelled to the North in that capacity.

4. **FANNY**, her daughter, a mulatress, aged 16 years, speaks French and English, is a superior hair-dresser, (pupil of Guilliac,) a good seamstress and ladies' maid, is smart, intelligent, and a first rate character.

5. **DANDRIDGE**, a mulattoo, aged 26 years, a first rate dining-room servant, a good painter and rough carpenter, and has but few equals for honesty and sobriety.

6. **NANCY**, his wife, aged about 24 years, a confidential house servant, good seamstress, mantuamaker and tailoress, a good cook, washer and ironer, etc.

7. **MARY ANN**, her child, a creole, aged 7 years, speaks French and English, is smart, active and intelligent.

8. **FANNY** or **FRANCES**, a mulatress, aged 22 years, is a first rate washer and ironer, good cook and house servant, and has an excellent character.

9. **EMMA**, an orphan, aged 10 or 11 years, speaks French and English, has been in the country 7 years, has been accustomed to waiting on table, sewing etc.; is intelligent and active.

10. **FRANK**, a mulatto, aged about 32 years speaks French and English, is a first rate hostler and coachman, understands perfectly well the management of horses, and is, in every respect, a first rate character, with the exception that he will occasionally drink, though not an habitual drunkard.

All the above named Slaves are acclimated and excellent subjects; they were purchased by their present vendor many years ago, and will, therefore, be severally warranted against all vices and maladies prescribed by law, save and except **FRANK**, who is fully guaranteed in every other respect but the one above mentioned.

TERMS:—One-half Cash, and the other half in notes at Six months, drawn and endorsed to the satisfaction of the Vendor, with special mortgage on the Slaves until final payment. The Acts of Sale to be passed before **WILLIAM BOSWELL**, Notary Public, at the expense of the Purchaser.

New-Orleans, May 13, 1835.

PRINTED BY BENJAMIN LEVY.

Source #4: Slave Narratives

Slave Voices: Life as a slave varied, depending on the owner and the type of work required. Here are some slaves' own words about their lives.

Madison Bruin, former slave

Ole Marster was good to us. He give us plenty of good food. I git plenty of whippin's, but he never beat us hard...Ole Marster, he beat me and his son just the same.

Betty Powers, former slave

All the rations are measured out on Sunday morning...Twarn't enough for the heavy eaters...The short rations caused lots of trouble, 'cause the blacks have to steal food. 'Twas a whipping if they get caught. The colored folks are in a hell of a fix if they can't do the work 'cause they're weak (from hunger). 'Twas a whipping then for sure.

Hilliard Yellerday, former slave

When a girl became a woman, she was required to go fo a man and become a mother. There was generally a form of marriage. The master read a paper to tell them telling them they were man and wife. Some were married by the master laying down a broom and the two slaves, man and woman, would jump over it. The master would then tell them they were man and wife, and they could go to bed together.

Mary Gaffney, former slave

When a slave died, we just dug a hole in the ground, built a fence around it, and piled him in. No singing, no preaching or praying, ever took place during slavery time. Master would say, "Well, he was a pretty good Negro. Guess he will go to Heaven, all right." And that was about all there was to a Negro funeral, then. We would not even shed a tear, because he was gone where there would not be any more slaves. That was all the slave thought about, then – not being a slave. Because slavery time was hell.

Rachel Cruze, former slave

I was born on the farm of Major William Holden...My father was William Holden, Jr., the youngest child of Major Holden. My mother, Eliza Mobley, was the colored cook...I lived in Old Major's house as a member of the family all those years.

Jacob Manson, former slave

We worked all day an' some of the nights an' a slave who make a week, even after doin' that, was lucky if he got off without getting' a beatin'. We had poor food, and the young slaves was fed out of troughs....The children were looked after by the old slave women who were unable to work in the fields, while the mothers of the babies worked. The women plowed and did other work as the men did. No books or learning of any kind was allowed.

Emily Dixon, former slave

On Sundays, we would git together in the woods an' have worship. We could go to the white folks' church, but we wanted to go where we could sing all the way through, an' hum along, an' shout – you all know; just turn loose like.

Mary Reynolds, former slave

Solomon the overseer beat [the slaves] with a big whip and Massa look on. The blacks better not stop in the fields when they hear them [the slaves being beaten] yellin'. They cut the flesh 'most to the bones, and some they was, when they taken them out of stock and put them on the beds, they never got up again.

Florence Napier, former slave

I sure enjoyed myself on the old plantation, and we-uns all had a good time. Always have plenty to eat. Master used to say, "The colored folks raised the food, an' they's entitled to all they wants." Same with the clothes.

Josiah Henson, former slave

Common as are slave-auctions in the southern states, and naturally as a slave may look forward to the time when he will be put up on the block, still the full misery of the event...is never understood till the actual experience comes...My [five] brothers and sisters were bid off first, and one by one, while my mother, paralyzed by grief, held me by the hand...Then I was offered to assembled purchasers...I must have been then between five and six years old. I seem to see and hear my poor weeping mother now.

Source #5: Resistance

Sometimes slaves revolted violently. Many tried to escape. Most common, though, was passive resistance – small acts that white slave owners and overseers might not catch on to. Here are some examples of passive resistance.

Rachel Cruze, Tennessee slave

Old Henry never ceased groaning and holding his side...Dr. Sneed finally arrived and examined Henry thoroughly. Then he gravely ordered some medicine to be given regularly, with complete rest...The doctor leaned over and whispered, “Julia, there is not a damn thing the matter with Henry.”

Anonymous female slave

“Don’t say I’m wicked [for stealing]...It’s all right for us poor colored people to appropriate whatever of the white folks’ blessings the Lord puts in our way.”

Anonymous female slave

“Old Mistress got sick, and I would fan her with a brush, to keep the flies off her. I would hit her all in the face. Sometimes I would make out I was asleep and beat her in the face.”

Spirituals as Songs of Resistance

Deep River

My home is over Jordan, yes My Deep River, lord.
I want to cross over into campground

Wade in the Water

Wade in the water, Wade in the water Children
Wade in the water, God’s gonna trouble the water.

Steal Away

Steal away, steal away Steal away, to Jesus! Steal
away, steal away home, I ain’t got long to stay here.

Many Thousand Gone

No more auction block for me. No more, no more,
No more auction block for me Many thousand
gone.

Heav’n Boun’ Soldier

Hold out yo’ light, you heav’n boun’ soldier Hold
out yo light, you heav’n boun’ soldier Let yo’ light
shine a roun’ de world

Follow the Drinking Gourd

Follow the drinking gourd! Follow the drinking
gourd, For the old man is awaiting for to carry you
to freedom If you follow the drinking gourd.

When the sun comes back and the first quail calls,
Follow the drinking gourd, For the old man is
awaiting to carry you to freedom If you follow the
drinking gourd.

The riverbank makes a very good road, The dead
trees will show you the way, Left foot, peg foot
travelling on, Follow the drinking gourd.

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Swing low sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me
home I looked over Jordan and what did I see,
Comin’ for to carry me home A band of angels
comin’ after me, Comin’ for to carry me home

Runaway Ads – New Bern, N.C.

August 5, 1797

RUN-AWAY from the subscriber about 8 days past, a negro fellow about twenty five years of age: he is short, well set, and active; not very black, and works very well at the Blacksmith's trade. This fellow was raised in Newbern, and formerly belonged to Abner Nash, Esq. – It is supposed he has gone to Newbern to get on board some vessel – He has two brothers, ABRAM and TOM, who live in Newbern, and who, I suppose will keep him secreted until he can get off. If this fellow is not yet got to Newbern, he is about Mrs. Haslen's Mills near West's Ferry. For apprehending and securing the said fellow, so that I get him again, I will pay all reasonable charges, gaol fees, &c. A fellow by the name of ROBIN, a sawyer, of light colour, the property of Mr. Garrot Goodlow, of Franklin county, went off with my fellow, and I doubt not Mr. Goodlow will give an equal reward for him.

-WILLIAM NASH

September 30, 1814

Twenty-Five Dollars Reward.

RUNAWAY from Raleigh, a month or two ago, a mulatto man named ANTHONY, well known in Raleigh, and many parts of the State, as having been for several years the body servant of Gen. Jones, and more lately as a pressman and news carrier in the *Star* Office. Anthony is about 25 or 26 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 10 inches high, is a mongrel white, tuscarora, and negro, has a tolerably large aquiline nose, bushy hair, though sometimes he cuts it short, has a scar on one of his cheeks, when in a good humour has a pleasing countenance, but if intoxicated the Tuscarora shows itself. – He works and walks fast, is lively and talkative, full of anecdote which he relates in character with much humor, is an excellent pressman, indifferent at distributing type, a tolerable carpenter and joiner, a plain painter, an excellent manager of horses, drives well and rides elegantly, having been accustomed to race riding, is fond of cock fighting, (an of man fighting when drunk) an is said to heel and pit with much skill; he can bleed and pull teeth, knows something of Medicines, is a rough barber, a bad but conceited cook, a good sawyer, can lay brick, has worked in the corn field, and can scratch "high hob" and "tobacco bills" a little on the fiddle. He can do many other things and whatever he can't do, he pretends to have knowledge of. His trades and qualities are thus detailed because his vanity will undoubtedly lead to a display of them. His master vice, or rather the parent of all his vices, is a fondness for strong drink, though sometimes he will abstain for months. He is an artful fellow and if taken up will tell a most plausible story, and possibly show a forged pass. Whoever will apprehend the said slave and secure him in any Jail so that his owner can obtain him, shall on application at the *Star* Office receive the above reward and all necessary expenses.

June 5, 1827

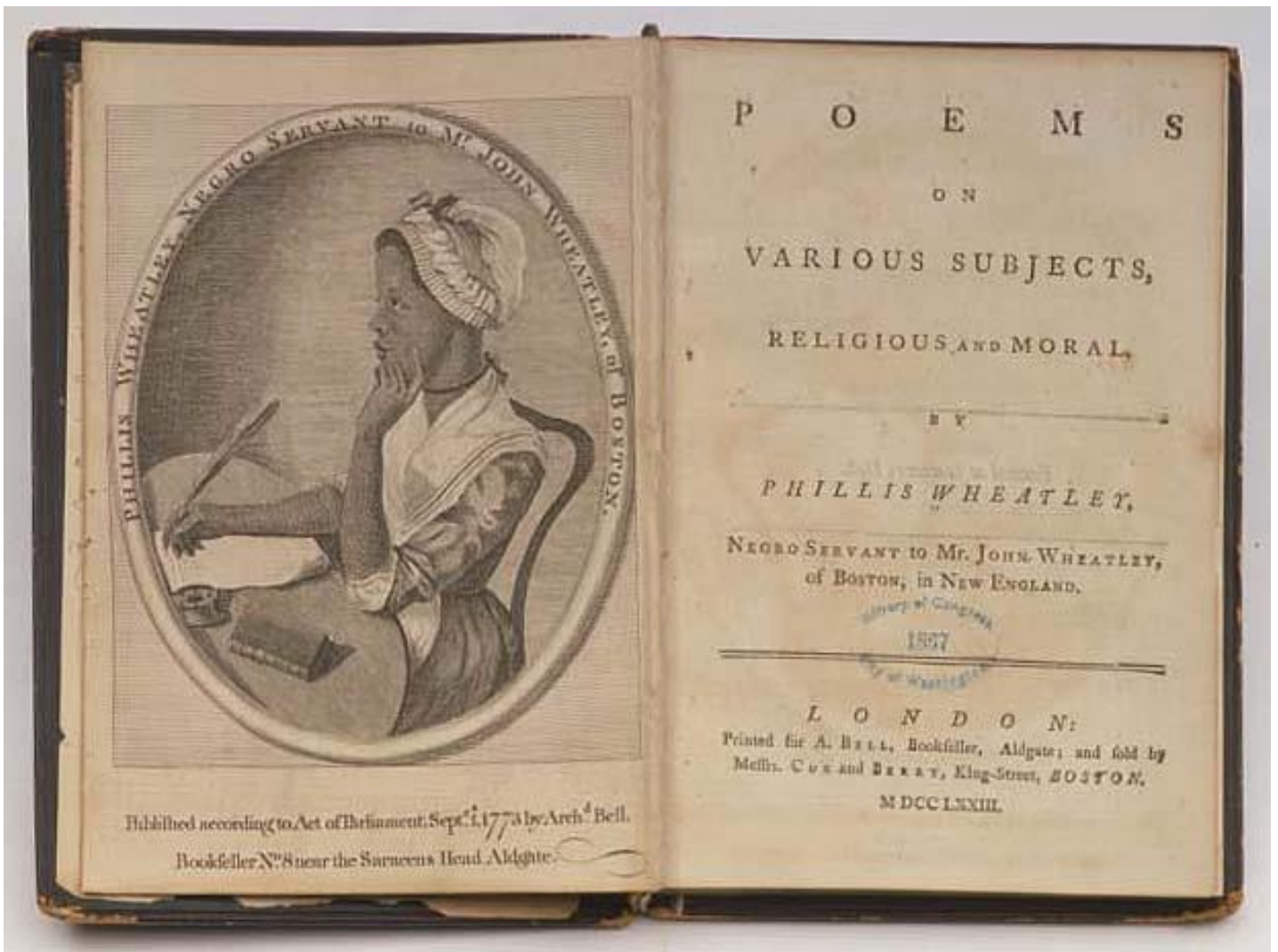
Twenty Dollars Reward

RAN AWAY from the subscriber's plantation, two miles from Charlotte, a negro man named HANNIBAL, who is in the habit of changing his name and the name of his master His is about six feet high, of dark mulatto complexion, a little cross-eyed, bushy hair, and downcast countenance; has the scars of a little nich or slit near the middle of the outside rim of each ear; a scar on his cheek bone, occasioned by a bullet shot at him near Jonesborough, Tennessee; a large scar near the middle of the breast, and many on his back and thighs. He has very large feet, and the big toes longer and more prominent than the rest. The above reward, and more, if necessary, will be paid to any person who will deliver him to the subscriber or the overseer at the above mentioned place.

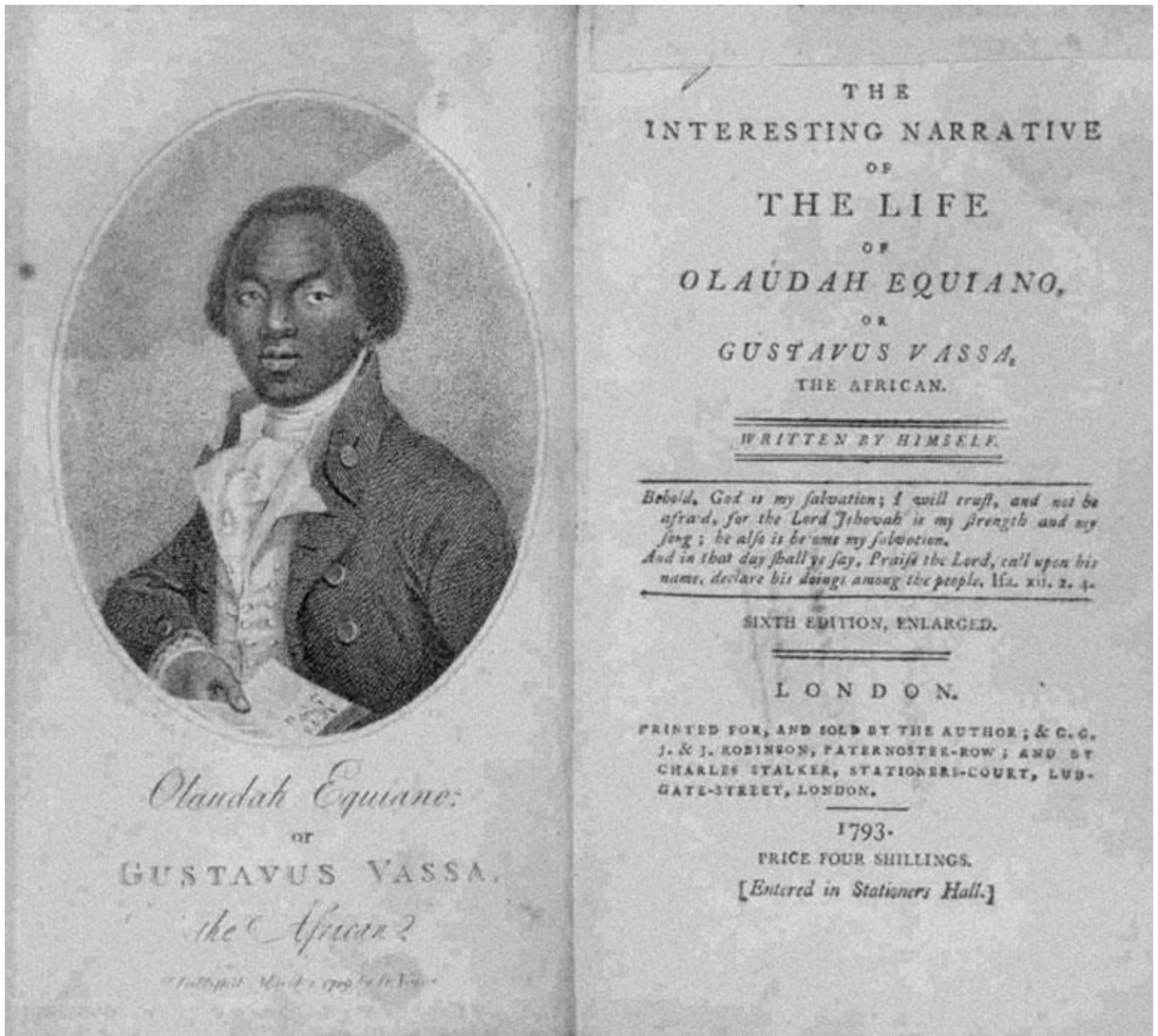
May 22, 1827

-ADAM A. SPRINGS

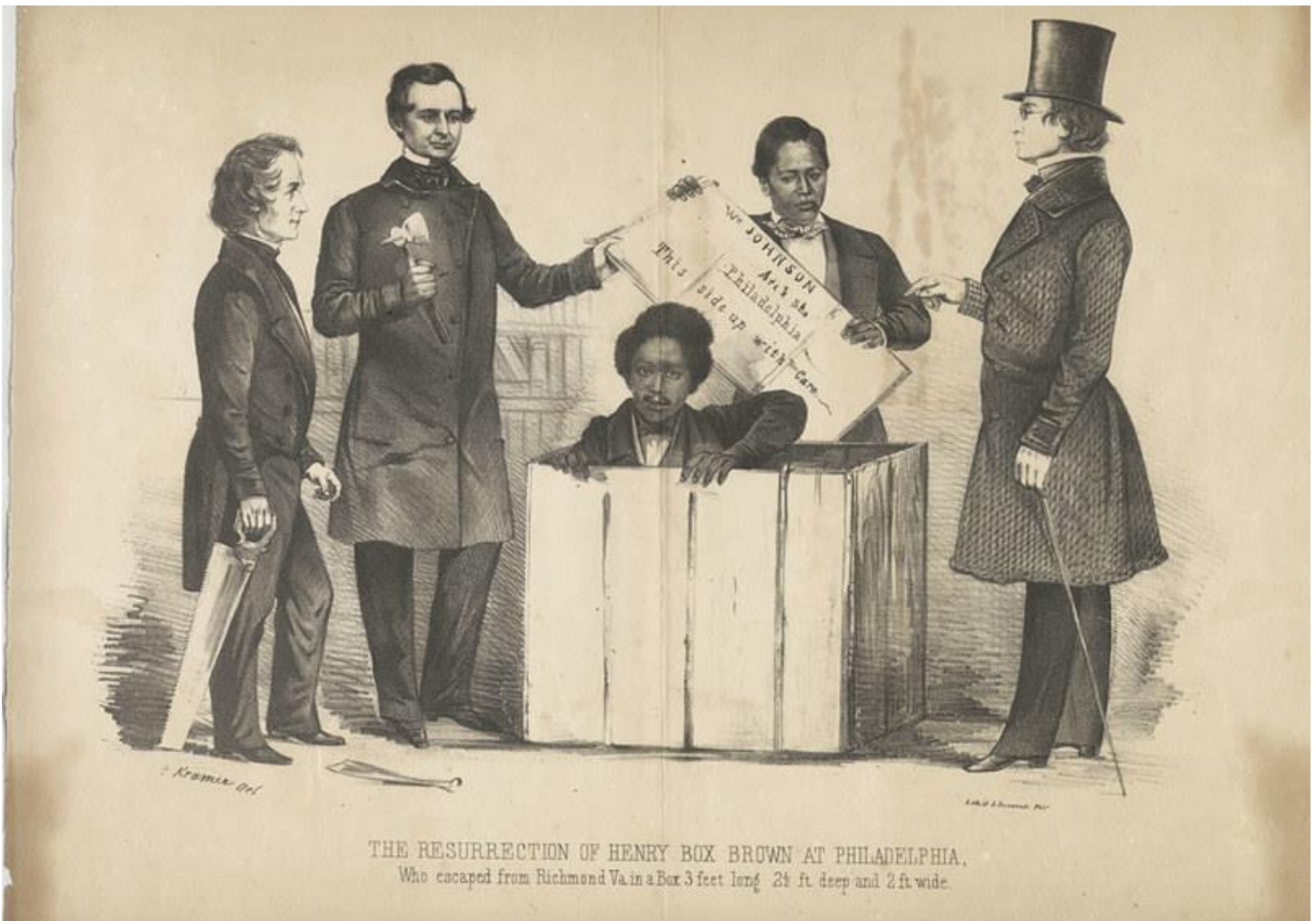
Source #6: You Pick Two



1. Phillis Wheatley was born in Africa and sold into slavery as a child. In light of that fact, what do you find surprising about the picture on the engraving?
2. At the time of publication, how do you think Phillis Wheatley would have described her occupation? How do you think Mr. John Wheatley, her owner would have described her occupation?
3. Using the information on the frontispiece, identify the location where Wheatley's book was published and where it was sold. What possible explanation can be offered for the different location of publication and sale?
4. In 1776 Phillis Wheatley and George Washington exchanged letters. Wheatley praised Washington for his leadership, wishing him great future success. In his reply, Washington commented in very positive terms regarding her literary skills. Given the background of each, explain what made these communications unusual.



1. Olaudah Equiano wrote that he had been born in what is today Nigeria. At the age of eleven he was sold into slavery and forcibly brought to America. His book describes his capture and enslavement. Studying the picture of Equiano on the frontispiece, what question might you have for him?
2. In his book, Equiano vividly described the horrors of the “Middle Passage” – the treacherous ocean journey from Africa to the Americas. Why do you think he chose to describe this agonizing part of his life?
3. According to Equiano’s description of the “Middle Passage”, during the voyage some of his fellow Africans chose to jump overboard to their deaths. From your knowledge of the conditions on slave ships, how would you explain their actions?
4. From the drawing of Equiano on the frontispiece and the information on the title page, describe three ways in which his life changed after his capture.



1. In 1849 Henry Brown sought to end his enslavement. Use the information in this print to piece together sufficient information to describe his escape.
2. Study the caption below the image. Why did the artist choose to use the word “resurrection” to describe Brown’s eventual condition?
3. Who do the figures greeting Brown represent? Describe their emotions.
4. Use your textbook to find a map of the United States, and locate Richmond, Virginia and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Brown was shipped by boat and carriage. Approximately how many miles did he travel in his box?



1. Born in 1766 of free black parents in Philadelphia, James Forten became a successful businessman. In 1813 he anonymously authored a pamphlet, *Letters From A Man of Color*, denouncing a bill before the Pennsylvania legislature requiring all black emigrants to Pennsylvania to register with the state. Why do you think he did not immediately take credit for this publication?
2. James Forten strongly opposed the American Colonization Society and its attempts to resettle black Americans in Liberia. Why did Forten oppose this organization?
3. From your knowledge of American history, explain why James Forten and William Lloyd Garrison became collaborators. (You may need to use your notes to help answer this question.)
4. How did James Forten upset the views many white Americans commonly held of black Americans?

HORRID MASSACRE IN VIRGINIA.



The Scenes which the above Plate is designed to represent, are—Fig. 1. a Mother intreating for the lives of her children, —2. Mr. Travis, cruelly murdered by his own Slaves.— 3. Mr. Barrow, who bravely defended himself until his wife escaped.—4. A comp. of mounted Dragoons in pursuit of the Blacks.

1. This woodcut was meant to illustrate events during the slave rebellion led by Nat Turner. Explain the point of view of the creator of this illustration.
2. Whose point of view is excluded in this illustration? Why?
3. This image was described as an “authentic and impartial narrative” of events. Drawing on your knowledge of American history, comment on the authenticity and impartiality of the illustration.
4. How would a depiction of this event drawn by a slave differ from this illustration?



1. After Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in 1849 she returned to the South numerous times to rescue members of her family and other slaves. Why is she considered courageous for these actions?
2. How did the Underground Railroad assist in the abolition movement?
3. Harriet Tubman has been referred to as a “modern day Moses.” Explain the reasons this nickname has been attached to her.
4. Carefully examine the image on this placard. What additional questions might you ask after viewing the drawing? What opinion do you think the artist had of Harriet Tubman?