PEOPLE SOLD AT AUCTION



0. PEOPLE SOLD AT AUCTION - Story Preface

1. THE UNDERGROUND IS BORN

2. JOURNEY TO SLAVERY

3. PEOPLE SOLD AT AUCTION

4. SLAVE HOMES

5. SLAVES AT WORK

6. SLAVES ESCAPE

7. LANGUAGE OF THE UNDERGROUND

8. FAMOUS CONDUCTORS

These slaves were being sold at Christiansburg, Montgomery County (Virginia), which is southwest of today's town of Roanoke. The illustration is from *Sketchbook of Landscapes in the State of Virginia*, 1853-1867, by Lewis Miller. Online, courtesy Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the University of Virginia Library.

The Library of Congress contains graphic pictures and photographs of the buying and selling of African-American slaves:

- Arriving in South Carolina in the 1780s, a group of slaves are slated to be sold at Ashley Ferry (outside Charleston).

- Others - including men, women and children - are auctioned off as though they were farm implements.

- Advertisements highlight virtues of a particular slave.

- The chains America threw away when the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain did not apply to blacks. Some even attempted to argue that American slavery was justified.

- White buyers inspect a kidnapped African and negotiate a purchase price with African slave traders.

- Families were often split up. Here a mother pleads: "Buy us too."

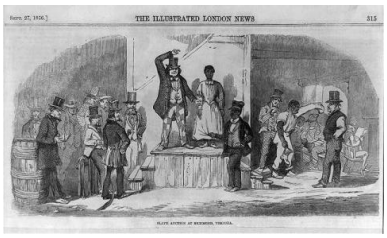
- In Alexandria, Virginia captured Africans were held in "slave pens" as they waited to be sold while in Easton, Maryland many whites gathered for a slave sale.

Once slaves were purchased, how did they live? What kind of clothing did they wear? How much food were they allowed?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PEOPLE-SOLD-AT-AUCTION-Underground-Railroad

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PEOPLE-SOLD-AT-AUCTION-Underground-Railroad

Media Stream



Slave Auction - Richmond, Virginia

Image described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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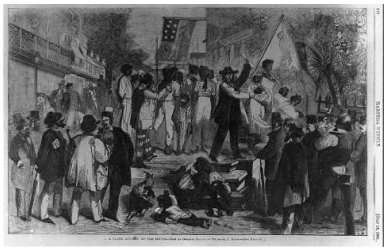
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Slave-Auction-Richmond-Virginia



Slave Auction in the American Colonies

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Advertisement for a Slave

Stephens, H. L., artist. "The Sale," ca. 1863. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. Reproduction Number LC-USZ62-41837.

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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Declaration of Independence - Not for Slaves

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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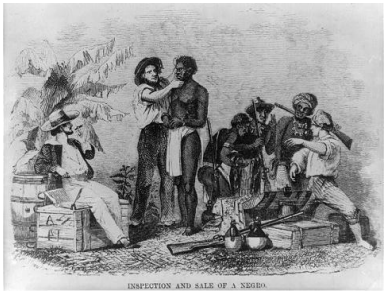

Slavery - Inspection and Sale of People

Image described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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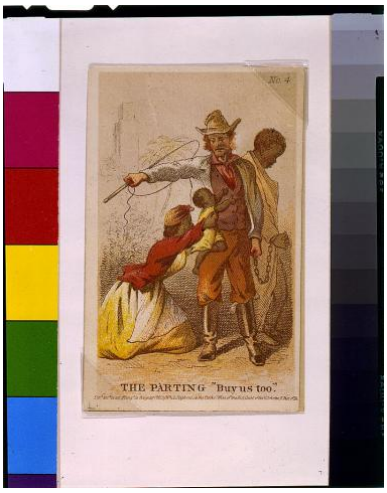

Slavery - Families Separated in a Sale

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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Slave Dealer in Alexandria, Virginia

Image described above, online courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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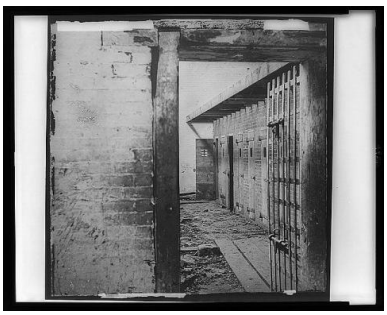

Slave Pens

Image described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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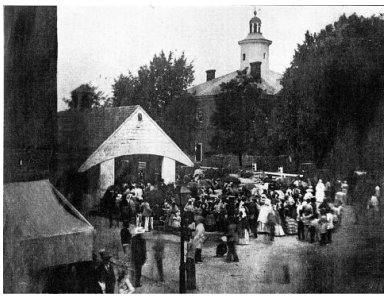

Slave Sale - People Gather for Auction

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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