

CLASS SET!!

New Perspectives on Slavery Questions

Directions: Use the graphs, maps, and charts in the “New Perspectives on Slavery” to answer the following questions.

Annual Net Earnings and Prices of Slaves

1. What type of slave was worth more to an owner, men or women?
2. At what age could slaves earn the most for their masters?

Men: _____ Women: _____

Per Capita Income by Region for 1840 and 1860

Note: Per Capita means “Per Person”

3. How much money did the average American make in 1840? 1860?
4. Which sub-region experienced the largest rate of change in per capita income between 1840 and 1860?
5. Make a hypothesis to explain why this may be the case.

Comparison of Farm Efficiency

6. Which farms were the most efficient?
7. What does the farm efficiency graph suggest about why slavery continued for so long?

Comparison of Average Daily Food Consumption of Slaves

8. Who consumed more food on average, slaves or free people?
9. Make a hypothesis to explain why this is the case.

Slave States, Proportion of White and Black Population

10. In which states did free blacks and slaves make up a majority of the population?

Distribution of Whippings on the Barrow Plantation, 1840-1842

11. How many whippings per year did most slaves receive on the Barrow Plantation from 1840-1842?

Life Expectancy of U.S. Slaves and Various Free Populations

12. How did the life expectancy of a white American differ from that of an American slave between 1830 and 1920?

13. How did the life expectancy of an American slave compare with the life expectancy of someone in Manchester, England in 1850?

Percentage of Southern White Families Owning Slaves in 1860

14. How many slaves did most southern white families own?

15. Of the southern white families that did own slaves, how many slaves did most families own?

16. What does this graph indicate about the image of the South as a region consisting primarily of big plantations worked by large numbers of slaves?

Critical Analysis

17. Do you think that the graphs on food consumption, whippings, and life expectancies indicate that slavery wasn't that bad?

Explain why or why not.