

## **ACTIVITY GUIDE**

### **AMERICA’S JOURNEY THROUGH SLAVERY: THE LIFE OF AN ENSLAVED PERSON IN AMERICA**

#### **Program overview and objective:**

This guide was developed as a supplement to be used in conjunction with the program “Life As an Enslaved Person in America”. It focuses on what life was like for many African Americans who lived in the mid to late 1800s while the institution of slavery was legal in America.

This program explores the daily life and customs of enslaved children and adults from colonial times through Emancipation. Through these activities students will come to better understand and appreciate the hardships and plight of African Americans living under the institution of slavery.

#### **WHOLE CLASS ACTIVITIES**

##### ***Whole Class Activity #1***

Teacher will begin a discussion about the importance of names. Discuss the fact that most Africans upon being sold into slavery were given a new name chosen by their master. Ask if students have a familiar name or nickname their family or friends use. Now ask students to imagine being given another name, perhaps even a made up name that you are forced to use.

##### ***Whole Class Activity #2***

Ask students to discuss the ways in which their lives today are different than that of African Americans who lived under slavery laws. Have students make a list that compare their families, homes, education and daily life.

## **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES**

### ***Small Group Activity #1***

Have students visit the website [www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAslavery.htm](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAslavery.htm). Ask them to choose the name of an enslaved person listed on the website and read their story. Have the student present their story to the class.

### ***Small Group Activity #2***

Assign students in the group to be a part of an enslaved family (ie. mom, dad, son, daughter). Have the students write a skit where each member of the family tells a story about their family life and jobs they performed on a daily basis.

## **INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES**

### ***Individual Activity #1***

The DVD presented many aspects of life as an enslaved person. Have each student write in a journal pretending to be a former enslaved person. Have them write a “week in their life” story. They can include information about their home, what kind of work they did, and the people they worked with.

### ***Individual Activity #2***

Ask students to draw a picture of some aspect of being an enslaved person living on a plantation during the mid-1830s. They can choose to draw pictures of working in the fields, preparing meals, sleeping arrangements in their home or some other facet of their lives.

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