

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

South Carolina: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 8: The Antebellum Era ~ Internet Activity

It's hard to imagine life in the time of slavery. In this lesson, you will look at primary sources from the 1800s to get a better understanding of slave life in America.

Part I: Open this primary source document at this link:

<https://digital.scetv.org/teachingAmerhistory/ttrove/documents/MurphyOBryanPapers.pdf>. This is a legal document called a "bill of sale" that's over 185 years old. Take time to look it over carefully before you complete each item.

- ⇒ Look for unique physical characteristics (handwriting, notes, seals, etc.).
- ⇒ Skim the text to try to understand the purpose of the document.

1. When was the document written? _____
2. Who created the document?

3. Why would this kind of document have been needed?

4. What was the price of the children sold on this bill of sale?

5. List two things this document tells you about life in South Carolina at the time it was written?

6. What is one question that you have based on what this document?

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Part II: Click the link to view a special purpose map from the [Library of Congress](#) in Washington, D.C. *Take a few minutes and read to learn how to navigate the map in order to zoom in on details and move about the map. Depending on your device, it may be easier to click the link to "Download JPEG2000 image."*

7. What was the purpose of this map?

8. When was the map published? _____

9. What source is given for the numbers used on the map? _____

10. Locate your county. What does the number on your county show?

11. According to the map legend, what does the color of your county indicate?

12. Which area of the state has the lowest percentage of slave population?

13. Which South Carolina county had the smallest percentage of its people enslaved? What was that percentage?

14. A student writes "George Town County, South Carolina had more slaves than any other county in the state in 1860." Explain why this might not be true. What other information would you need in order to know that the statement was true or false?
