

Pre-reading

1. Coming out of the revolution, many people predicted that slavery was on the way out and that people would soon see that it wasn't profitable to have slaves. There was talking among many people, such as Thomas Jefferson, about freeing their slaves for ideological reasons.

1. Cotton became and was king for several reasons. At first, cotton wasn't profitable because it took so long to harvest and to make usable. It would take the slaves a very long time to pick the cotton clean. This all changed with the cotton gin was invented. The cotton gin sped up the process of cleaning cotton by a lot. It could also be sold for a lot at the time and soon much of the world became dependent on the cotton from the south. Britain was depended on the cotton because it produced a lot of cotton fiber cloth. About one fifth of the population's livelihood was based on cotton. So if the south stopped producing cotton then Britain would have major problems.

2.

**Planters-** A few powerful planting families in the South controlled much of the political power even though they comprised only a small minority of the whole population. They also controlled the majority of the wealth. The planters aren't really similar to any other group because they are powerful and rich and other groups weren't.

**Enslaved Blacks-** The slaves were at the bottom of the social ladder and had no real way of getting up at the time. Although they were slaves and worked for free there were expenses involved. The initial price of a slave could have been about 1200 dollars and after that, there were costs involved in feeding and housing although both would be cheap. There were also risks involved. If a slave ran away or injured his or herself the planter would be losing money. This group is most similar to the free blacks. This is because once a slave as freed it didn't have any more or a back ground so it could still be hard for any kind of ascension on the social ladder.

**Non-Wealthy Whites-** These are the white majority that didn't own slaves. Although they were poor and powerless they still supported the slavery system in the hope that one-day they will be able to purchase a slave and maybe work their way into prosperity. This group could be considered similar to the planters because of their support for the slavery system.

**Free Blacks-** They didn't have full rights of a white person but weren't enslaved. Were resented by slave owners because they could inspire slaves to try and escape or revolt. They were also resented in the North by immigrant workers because of job competition.

1. The upper south was part of the south but it was the northern part of the south that held slaves. The lower south was obviously the southern south. Deep South was couth Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana because they had a majority of blacks. The black belt was the area where many slaves were concentrated from South Carolina to Louisiana. The Old South is where people had been for a long time. The cotton belt is the same thing as the black belt except with cotton.

2. The authors remark on the fact that blacks actually managed to have stable family situations and its amazing that they were able to have organized religion under all the pressures that they faced.

1.
  - People started viewing it as inhumanity
  - Quakers were first abolitionists
  - First wanted to send them back to Africa but many were native born
  - British freed slaves in West Indies
  - Second Great Awakening
  - Pamphlet *American Slavery As It Is* 1839
  - *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Harriet Beecher Stowe
2. Garrison was probably exaggerating when he made that statement but to certain degree it is true. It's true because the constitution didn't protect the slaves or guarantee them any kind of freedom. Because it didn't do this, it was a covenant with death.
3. Garrison and Douglass were very different in how they thought slavery could be abolished. Obviously since Garrison burned a copy of the constitution he didn't believe politics could stop slavery. Douglass believed that it could and that is where he looked to end the reign of slavery in the south.
4. The arguments for slavery were rationalized. The south came up with the ideas to counter all the abolitionist propaganda. No matter what, the southern planters were using the slaves for their own good. No matter how much they try to argue they can't convince anyone that slavery exists for the good of the slaves.
5. Many northerners weren't opposed to slavery because they knew that the North was somewhat dependent on the South. The South owed the northern banks about 300 million dollars. The textile factories depended on the cotton from the South.