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Course-American History

SLAVE REBELLIONS

INTRODUCTION

Time: 2 periods 50 minutes each

Slavery in the southern colonies was marked by slave rebellions. The slaves were treated like animals by many of their slave owners. The owners believed that slave rebellions were eminent. The diaries and narratives present a strong evidence the slaves would only be pushed so far and they would resist their masters. These pending revolts struck fear in the minds of the slave owners. The slaves would band together with a force organized by slave leader. The function of the leader or organizer was to incite the slaves into a revolt. The rebellion would take place at night under the cover of darkness. Although most of these rebellions were unsuccessful, the premise that slaves could have a strike against their master and ultimately their would be a slave rebellion.

Grade 5
Standard

5:12 Explain the causes of the establishment of slavery in North America. Describe the harsh conditions of the Middle Passage , and the responses of their slave conditions. Describe the life of a African Americans in the colonies. (H,G,E,C)

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. The students will read narratives on three slave revolts.**
- 2. The students will analyze each revolt from different the points of view.**
- 3. The students will report on each rebellion from the view of the organizer and the goal to be gained.**

PRACTICE ACTIVITY

Reading from the narratives of Gabriel Posser, Nat Turner, and Denmark Vesey will help students to understand how slaves revolted. A chart on slave revolts will include: Reason why each revolt was created, background on each slave revolt organizer, how they created the revolt (Plan), Success or failure of revolt, impact of the revolt.

ASSESSMENT

The students will read the narratives on each revolt and its organizer. The will work in groups of four. Each group will research the background of the organizer. They will examine the strategies of each plan and explain the success or failure of the revolt. They will also report on the impact the revolt had on the slave owners and the slaves involved.

Gabriel Posser, Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner- organizers of Slave Rebellions

Each group of students will prepare a paper for an open debate on the pros and cons of slave revolts. They will also debate the rights of the slave owner and the slave. This will enable the students to understand both sides of slavery.

As a final activity. The students will take on the role of task master, group leader, scribe and reporter and create their own slave plan. They may use one of the slave rebellions as a guide for their own plan. They may also use a graphic organizer in order to describe their slave plan as a part of their presentation.

Text Source:

**Robertson, David. (1999) Denmark Vesey. Alfred a. Knoff. New York
Stryson, William. (1967) The Confessions of Nat Turner. Random House Press. New York.**

Website:

Slave Rebellions

The African Diaspora

www.wsu.edu/dee/diaspora/rebd.htm

Runaway Slaves Ads

Savannah, Georgia Gazette

Gabriel Posser Wikipedia. The free encyclopedia

http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Posser

Explanation of the Lesson

Slave Rebellions were notable revolts made by slaves against their masters. Slave masters were in constant fear of these revolts. The slaves banded together with an organized leader in the cover of darkness. Although these rebellions were unsuccessful, they presented a warning sign that slavery was against the rights of mankind that of one man owning another man.

The students will read the narratives of three slave revolt organizers: Nat Turner, Gabriel Posser, and Denmark Vesey who created rebellions. They will work in groups examining how the revolt were organized, success or failure of the each revolt, and the how each revolt impacted slavery. They will present their findings.

Final activity: The students will work in groups. Strategy used- Cooperative learning roles, a task master group organizer, scribe and reporter. The students will create their own slave revolt plan. They will report out in a debate.

The focus of this lesson is to enlighten the students to the constant turmoil in the life of a slave. The reason for the slave revolts was an escape mechanism in the minds of the slaves. It was also a wake-up call for the slave owners. Although some slave owners were good to their slaves, the ratio was on the low side. The main premise of slavery was that the slaves were property and had no rights,