

Antebellum Slavery:

King Cotton and Life Under Slavery

U.S. History to 1877

The Myth of Tara

Geography of slavery

- Climate and soil patterns
- Little immigration
- Comparison with the North

Economics of Slavery

- Cotton boom
- Monoculture in the Deep South
- Labor shortage: importation of slaves banned, 1808

Slave Ownership

- Fewer slaveowners
 - Average price: 1850 \$400; 1860 \$800
 - Prime hand \$1200; skilled hand \$2000
 - More slaves per owner
- Popular support for slavery
 - Control competition
 - Race control

Slave Life

- Material conditions

Slave Quarters

Planting Cotton

Harvest

Harvest

Bringing Cotton to the Gin

Domestic Slaves

Recreation

Marriage

Family Life

Unprotected

Family

Religion

Punishment

Death

Slavery of the Mind

- Psychological conditions
 - No rewards
 - Motivation: punishment
 - No hope: slave for life
 - Powerless to affect one's own life
- "Slave mentality" and its legacies
 - Act dumb; work slow
 - The system is stacked against you
- Few slave revolts
 - None after Nat Turner Revolt, 1831
- Running away