

WHITNEY PLANTATION

Module Four:

Hope

Video Included:

- Did the enslaved resist bondage?
- How did Africans keep their culture?

Primary Resources Included:

Part 1

- On to Orleans: The Negro Insurrection
- Runaway ad for enslaved from Haydel Plantation

Part 2

- Pounding Cassava, Jamaica, 1808-1815
- Slave Quarters, Louisiana 1861-1861

PART ONE

Video – Did the enslaved resist bondage?

- 1. Where is this video filmed? _____ Why do you think that this is an important spot?**
- 2. What was 'everyday' resistance?**
- 3. What was 'planned' resistance?**
- 4. What stands out to you the most about what is being said?**

Primary Sources:

- 1. What are these two documents? Describe them.**
- 2. Which one of these depicts 'everyday' resistance? How?**
- 3. How is the other an example of 'planned' resistance?**

4. What emotions and feelings do you see expressed on the faces of people in the drawing?

5. Look at the objects that the men have with them, and think carefully: How are these objects symbolic?

(Flag)

(Weapons)

(Uniforms)

6. Do you think this drawing is 'true to life'? Why or why not?

PART TWO

Video – How did the Africans keep their culture?

1. Where is this video filmed? _____ Why do you think that this is an important spot?

2. What are the ways in which African culture was preserved in the south?

3. In what ways is this still preserved in the present day? Can you make connections with things that you yourself have experienced? (or eaten?) (or music you have heard?)
4. What stands out to you the most about what is being said?

Primary Sources:

1. What are these two documents? Describe them.
2. How is the color picture connected with the video from the Whitney?

Narratives: For each of following excerpts, connect the story which is being told to either the videos from the Whitney Plantation, or to one of the primary sources. These are the voices of enslaved workers who were interviewed in the 1930's, a part of the Works Project Administration's project to preserve the experiences of formerly enslaved Americans.

Did the enslaved resist bondage?

"... hide in the woods, he'd come in at night, an' to get a meal. They bore a little hole in the floor an' they break into de meat house too. De dogs couldn't catch dem nohow 'cause they put Bay Leaves on de bottom o' their feet an' shoes, then they go an' walk in fresh manure and a dog can't track them. That way a man could come an' see his family, an' when it's time to get busy to gather crops, they'd come out o' the woods, walk up to Col. White an' say 'I'll take de crops off you if'n yo'll let me."

– Albert Patterson

"No sir, he wasn't allowed to go out at night but would steal out."

- Elizabeth Ross Hite

1. What are the connections between these two narratives and the primary sources?

Video Connections:

Primary Source Connections:

2. How are these examples of Resistance?

How did Africans keep their culture?

“I never did have a doctor with me or any of my chilluns. I allus used the things my ma told me about I still use dem now. Just take Eldu bush and make a tea out of it, and bath with it. Dat’s all we ever did use for fever. The leaves are good to place on a sore or a swollen place.... You can make Eldu bush with salt and vinegar, make a good polis for rheumatism, dat’s what I use.”

– Verial Brown

“In the old times, we were our own druggins’ an’ doctor an’ cured ourself with roots an’ herbs an’ home-made remedies.

Collard leaves we put on our head for misery, an’ again we made a poultice with them for bites. Once, when I had a carbuckle on the back of my neck an’ they said I was goin’ to die, I cured myself with it.”

– Slack Wilson

1. What is revealed in these two testimonies?

2. In what ways do these testimonies show that traditional knowledge was kept alive?

3. How are these narratives connected to the video?

PRIMARY RESOURCES

PART ONE

Title: On to Orleans: The Negro Insurrection.

Description: Author Maurice, Story of Louisiana, 1888. Image depicts a scene of the 1811 German Coast enslaved uprising.



Photo Courtesy: The New York Public Library Digital Collections

Title: Runaway Ad for enslaved from Haydel Plantation

Description: Ad for two enslaved runaways from the plantation of Jean Jacque Haydel of the Haydel Plantation. The Times- Picayune (New Orleans, LA) Sunday Feb. 6 1853 p. 5.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD—Ran away from the plantation of J. J. Haydel, parish of St. John the Baptist, two negro boys, aged about 14 years, named **PRINCE** and **ALEX**, speaking French.—Said reward will be paid for their apprehension and **P. MASPERO**, 28 Bienville st., N. O.

delivery to
P3-5t* 11

Photo Courtesy: Newspapers.com

PART TWO

Title: Pounding Cassava, Jamaica, 1808-1815

Description: Watercolor, showing the back of a woman who is wearing sandals and pounding cassava/manioc in a wooden mortar and pestle.



Photo Courtesy: Library of Congress

Title: Slave Quarters, Louisiana, 1861-1865

Description: Caption, "negerhyddor I Louisiana" (Negro huts in Louisiana); shows row of cabins, houses, people lounging, children playing and dancing, man playing fiddle. Title in English: "Sketches from the North American war, 1861-65. Letters and notes during a four-year stay in the United States by a Swedish officer who participated in this war"

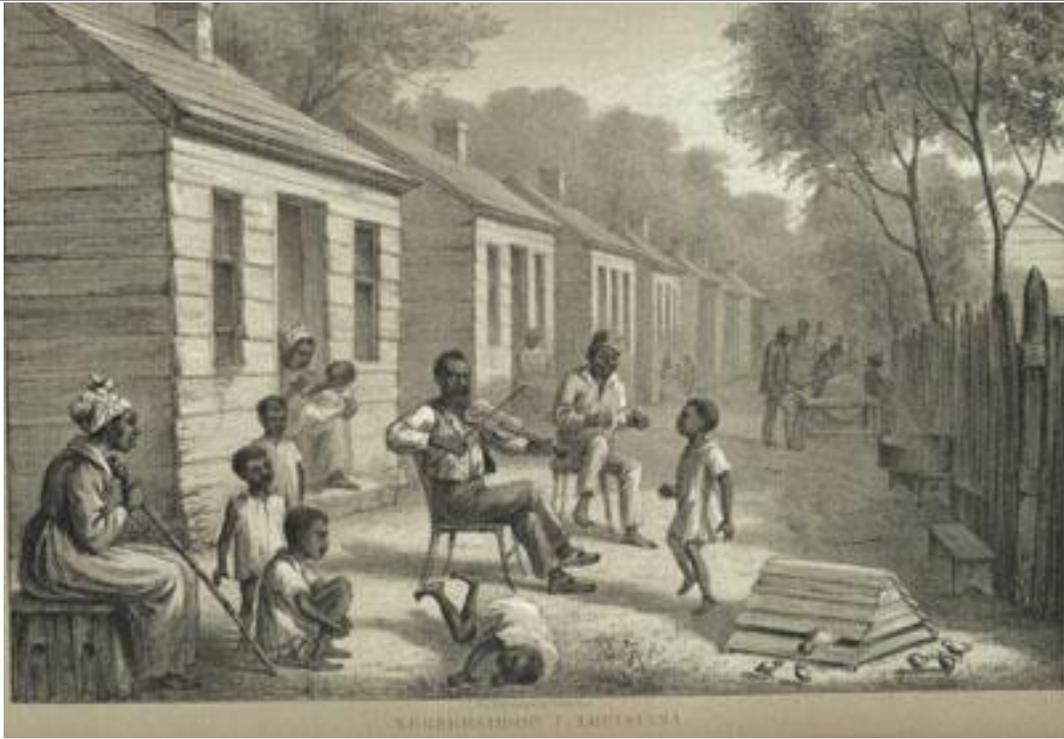


Photo Courtesy: Library of Congress