Slavery
Capture and the Middle Passage

- After capture, Africans were packed tightly into slave ships.
- The death rate of the “passengers” was 50%.
The Middle Passage
Destination, Auction, and Seasoning

- Most Africans landed in Brazil with the least number landing in North America.
- Slaves were auctioned off to the highest bidder.
- Slaves were put through a process of “seasoning” to get them ready for work.
- They learned an European language, were named an European name, and were shown labor requirements.
The Beginnings of Slavery in the United States

- The Portuguese and Spanish had already brought Africans to South and Latin America.
- In 1619, the first Africans were brought to the colony Jamestown, Virginia by the Dutch.
Why Not Enslave the Native Population?

- Native Americans were highly likely to catch European diseases.
- They were familiar with the terrain and could escape easier.
- They had political allies that could fight against the “owners.”
Reasons for Using Enslaved African Labor

- Proximity - It only took 2-6 weeks to get to the colonies from the Caribbean at first.
- Experience - They had previous experience and knowledge working in sugar and rice production.
- Immunity from diseases - Less likely to get sick due to prolonged contact over centuries.
- Low escape possibilities - They did not know the land, had no allies, and were highly visible because of skin color.
Anthony Johnson

- He was an African brought to the colonies in the 1620s.
- He obtained his freedom, and purchased 250 acres of land in Virginia.
- He owned at least one slave and white indentured servants.
- This shows that blacks were not thought of strictly as slaves until the 1660s.
Slavery in the Colonies

- New England colonies-no large plantation systems; slaves lived in cities and small farms
- Chesapeake Bay colonies-large tobacco plantations; center of the domestic slave trade
- Carolinas and Georgia-large rice and cotton plantations
The Effects of the American Revolution and the Constitution

- Gradual abolition of slavery in the northern colonies
- End of the Atlantic Slave Trade in 1808
- Entrenchment of slavery in the South with the invention of the cotton gin in 1793 by Eli Whitney
Life of a Slave

- Most slaves had Sundays off and they went to church.
- Most slaves could not read or write, and it was illegal for them to learn.
- Slave Codes - They could not: leave their home without a pass, carry a weapon, gather in groups, own property, legally marry, defend themselves against a white person, or speak in court.
Resistance

- Flight-Slaves would runaway.
- Truancy-Flight for a short amount of time and then the slave came back.
- Refusal to reproduce-Women refused to have children.
- Covert Action-Slaves would sometimes kill animals, destroy crops, start fires, steal stuff, break tools, poison food.
Violence

- 4 major slave revolts-
  - Stono Rebellion-failed revolt in South Carolina in 1739
  - Gabriel Prosser-led failed revolt in Virginia in 1800
  - Denmark Vessey-led failed revolt in South Carolina in 1822
  - Nat Turner-killed 60 white people in Virginia in 1831
Punishment

- Slaves were often brutally punished for misbehaving.
- Punishments included: whipping, branding, being sold, gagged (silence), and other torturous methods were used.
Compromise of 1850

- California comes in the Union (United States) as a free state
- Utah and New Mexico territories are created-no mention of slavery
- Outlaws slave trade in Washington, D.C.
- Fugitive Slave Act-requires northerners to return escaped slaves to masters
The Dred Scott Decision

- Dred Scott was a slave who was taken to a free territory by his owner.
- He sued for his freedom because he lived in the free territory.
- His case went all the way to the Supreme Court, where Scott loses because he was not considered a citizen, thus could not sue in federal court. (He was “property” and could be taken anywhere.)
Election of 1860 and the Start of the Civil War

- Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860 without any southern electoral votes.
- Many southern states quickly seceded from the Union, South Carolina leading the way.
- Southern troops fired upon Fort Sumter, starting the Civil War.
- The North fought to preserve the Union, while the South fought to preserve slavery.
The Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation

- Early in the war, Lincoln began to think about ending slavery in the South to help end the war.
- On September 22, 1862 he issued the Emancipation Proclamation which declared an end to slavery in the states in rebellion on January 1, 1863.
- What did it do? Nothing. It only freed slaves in the states that had seceded.
End of the Civil War and the 13th Amendment

- The South lost, and the states were forced to accept the 13th Amendment to the Constitution before they could be readmitted into the Union.

- 13th Amendment - It abolished slavery in the United States.

- It was ratified in 1865.
The End