Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

King Cotton: The Fiber of Slavery

Table 1. Production of Cotton

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Pounds |
| 1790 | 1,567,000 |
| 1795 | 8,359,500 |
| 1800 | 36,572,500 |
| 1805 | 73,145,000 |
| 1810 | 88,819,000 |
| 1815 | 104,493,000 |
| 1820 | 167,189,000 |
| 1825 | 266,457,500 |
| 1830 | 365,726,000 |
| 1835 | 530,355,500 |
| 1840 | 673,116,000 |
| 1845 | 902,111,500 |
| 1850 | 1,066,925,500 |
| 1855 | 1,608,708,500 |
| 1860 | 1,918,701,000 |

Table 2. Price of Cotton

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Production |
| 1800 | 37 cents |
| 1801 | 44 cents |
| 1802 | 19 cents |
| 1805 | 15 cents |
| 1818 | 32.5 cents |
| 1819 | 14 cents |
| 1837-48 | Under 10 cents |
| 1857 | 15 cents |
|  |  |

Table 3. Population of the South

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | White | Slave |
| 1790 | 1,240,454 | 654,121 |
| 1800 | 1,691,892 | 851,532 |
| 1810 | 2,118,144 | 1,103,700 |
| 1820 | 2,867,454 | 1,509,904 |
| 1830 | 3,614,600 | 1,983,860 |
| 1840 | 4,601,873 | 2,481,390 |
| 1850 | 6,184,477 | 3,200,364 |
| 1860 | 8,036,700 | 3,950,511 |

1. What happens to the amount of cotton produced between 1790 & 1860? What do you think accounts for that?

2. During that same time what happens to the price of cotton? What do you think accounts for that change?

3. Why do you think the price of cotton increase drastically in 1818?

4. How will cotton production affect the relationship between the North and South?

6. What happens to the white population during this time? What do you think accounts for this change?

6. What happens to the slave population? What do you think accounts for this change?

7. Did every Southerner own slaves?

8. Why do you think white southerners that did not own slaves allowed the institution of slavery to continue?

9. When slave labor was in less demand do you think they were treated differently from when their labor was in high demand? Explain. (Hint: type of slave systems pg 253)

10. How did industrial labors have it better then slaves? How did they have it worse? How did Industrial laborers deal with harsh conditions? (pg 249)

11. How did white southern try to maintain control of the slave population? (pg 254)

12. How do slaves respond to being trapped in the system of slavery? (pg 255)

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Major Slave Rebellions in the United States**

**Directions:** Read the descriptions of the following slave rebellions. Then answer the questions.

**Gabriel Prosser's Rebellion--1800**--Gabriel Prosser, a blacksmith, and his brother Martin, a slave preacher, planned a major rebellion in Virginia. They recruited at least a thousand slaves to their cause and built up a secret cache of weapons in anticipation of marching on the state capital of Richmond. When the day of the revolt arrived though, a violent storm washed out the roads and bridges leading to Richmond. The rebels broke up and Prosser was betrayed by one of his followers. The state militia captured Prosser and he and many of his followers were hanged.

1. What stopped this revolt from taking place?

**Denmark Vesey's Uprising--1822**--Vesey, a free black man living in South Carolina, detested slavery and took great inspiration from stories of Israelite freedom from bondage in the Bible. He began organizing for a major rebellion which would take place in 1822 in the city of Charleston. He and his followers organized into small cells, independent of each other. This way, of a single cell were detected by the authorities, the other rebel cells could survive.

His plan was rather simple. Armed slaves would position themselves outside the houses of whites at night. Then, other slaves would start a major fire in the city. When the white men exited their homes to fight the fire, the slaves would kill them.

Unfortunately for Vesey and his followers, someone betrayed them before they could launch the attack. One of Vesey's companions, who knew the whole plan, turned him in to the authorities. Vesey and the other leaders were hung, but the immensity and ingenuity of the plot terrified southern slave owners.

1. What was Denmark Vesey's plan?

2. What stopped this revolt from taking place?

**Nat Turner's Revolt--August, 1831**--Nat Turner's rebellion was the most successful of all slave revolts. Turner, a slave preacher, inspired fellow slaves with his apocalyptic visions of white and black angels fighting in heaven. He gathered up his seven original followers and, without the organization or planning of Prosser and Vesey, launched his rebellion by entering his owner's home and killing the entire family, save for a small infant. They moved from one farm to the next, killing all slave-owning whites they found. As they progressed through Southampton county, other slaves joined in the rebellion. The next day, Turner and his eighty followers were intercepted by the state militia. In the confrontation that followed, Turner escaped and remained free for nearly two months. In those two months though, the militia and white vigilantes instituted a reign of terror over slaves in the region. Hundreds of blacks were killed. White Virginians panicked over fears of a larger slave revolt and soon instituted more restrictive laws regulating slave life. Turner was eventually captured and hung.

1What happened during this rebellion?

2. How did the rebellion end?

**Questions:**

1. What do you think was the intended effect of these slave rebellions? Did they achieve their goals?
2. How would slave rebellions like these make whites MORE interested in preserving slavery?
3. How would slave rebellions like these make white LESS interested in preserving slavery?
4. If you could go back in time and help any of these rebellions succeed better, which one would you help? Explain why?
5. Based on your answer to Number 4, what would you do to help the rebellion be more successful? Keep in mind you must use the technology of the day, you cannot bring a machine gun back then, or anything like that.