**Slave Narratives**

Remembering Slavery in America

From: UCI History Project

**History Standards: 8.7.2**

Trace the origins and development of slavery; its effects on black American and on the region’s political, social, religious, economic, and cultural development, and identify the strategies that were tried to both overturn and preserve it…

**CCSS Standards: Reading, Grades 6-8**

1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

2. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

10. By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

**Guiding Question:**What do slave narratives demonstrate about the institution of slavery?

**Overview of Lesson:**

Five excerpts of interviews with former slaves are included. The interviews were conducted in the 1930s.

Students should be placed in groups of five. Students should each be assigned one interview to read through. As a whole class, guide them through the first set of questions, which asks students to identify the author, date, etc. Once they know that information, ask them to explain to their group member who the former slave was, and make a prediction about what they would say in their interview. After students have all gone around (about 5 minutes), have them silently work through their interview. They should circle any words or phrases that they don’t understand. At the end of the first read through, they may ask their fellow group members for help with their circles. Move through the students so that you may offer additional assistance here.

Direct the students’ attention to the remaining questions. Have them read the interview again, with the questions in mind, and them answer them as fully as possible. Make sure to explain to students that their answers should include details from the text itself.

If time allows, have them each summarize their interview in under one minute (use a timer) for their group members.

**Slave Narratives**

*The excerpts are from former slaves who were freed after the Civil War. Most were children, or in their early teens, at the time they were in slavery. These interviews were conducted in the 1930’s and then written down. All of these interviews have been obtained from the Library of Congress.*

What is the name of the former slave being interviewed?

How old are they (if it says)?

Where are they living?

Is there a date or year on the document anywhere?

Give a very brief summary of some the experiences the former slave describes:

Is there anything special that stood out to you or that you found really interesting?

Is there anything you have questions about or didn’t understand?





























