



### An Enslaved Person's Experience

was enslaved in North Carolina.

This is how she described her life:

I  know what it was to . I just  all the time from morning till late at night. I had to  there was to do on the outside. Work in the field, chop wood, hoe corn, till sometime I feels like my  surely .

*—Sara Gudger*



### Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- Examine the  and  conditions experienced by enslaved workers in the South.
- Describe the ways enslaved  maintained their  and traditions.
- Analyze the role of  in bringing  to the condition of the enslaved.



**Words to Know**

*Write the letter of the definition next to the matching word as you work through the lesson. You may use the glossary to help you.*

\_\_\_\_\_ sabotage

\_\_\_\_\_ overseer

\_\_\_\_\_ revolt

A. a violent rising up against authority

B. the act of deliberately destroying property or equipment

C. a white man hired to supervise enslaved field workers

?

Lesson  
Question

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**Life under Slavery**

Conditions for enslaved persons varied greatly but always resulted in  work and .

Enslaved persons had no civil or political .

- Their marriages were not .
- They had few protections from cruel  or even murder.

**The Prevalence of Slavery**

Enslaved people did not just work on .

They also worked on small farms and in cities.

All enslaved people were considered .

- Enslaved people could be  and sold.
- Families were often .

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### Enslaved Field Workers

Enslaved people worked on plantations.

- They  land.
- They took care of .
- They  buildings.

They worked as mechanics, blacksmiths, and .

### Enslaved House Workers

Enslaved people also worked in houses.

- They  and cleaned.
- They cared for .

Their lives were very , but hardly , than the lives of enslaved field workers.

### Skilled Workers

Enslaved people in cities often worked in industry and in skilled trades.

- They worked in  and  and on cotton presses.
- They worked for , butchers, , and saddle makers.

Some skilled workers could earn wages and  their .

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**Working Conditions**

Enslaved people suffered through long days,  labor, and, in many instances, .

**Overseers** supervised enslaved field workers.

An  was a white man hired to  enslaved field workers.

- Many used physical  for those who broke  or worked too .
- Punishment included  and beatings.

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### Living Conditions for the Enslaved

<b>Food</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food was handed out <input type="text"/>.</li> <li>• It was not nutritionally <input type="text"/>, and there was not <input type="text"/> of it.</li> <li>• This led to disease and <input type="text"/>.</li> </ul>
<b>Clothing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing was given out once a <input type="text"/>.</li> <li>• Enslaved <input type="text"/> workers got the best clothing.</li> <li>• Those who could not work got <input type="text"/>.</li> </ul>
<b>Shelter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most enslaved people lived in simple <input type="text"/>.</li> <li>• <input type="text"/> conditions were common.</li> <li>• Some enslaved house workers lived in the main house.</li> </ul>

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**Life for Enslaved People in Cities**

Life was different for enslaved people in cities.

A city slave is  a freeman, compared with a slave on the plantation. He is much  and , and enjoys  altogether  to the slave on the plantation.

*-Frederick Douglass,  
1845*

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**Slave Codes**

Slave codes were  that controlled the lives of enslaved people and applied only to them.

Enslaved people could not:

- against whites.
- leave the plantation without .
- or sell things.
- learn to  or .

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### The Role of Religion

After the Second Great Awakening, most enslaved persons became .

- They often mixed Christian beliefs with some  practices.

- hoped that Christianity would make enslaved workers .

- Instead, many took ideas of  from Christian stories.

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### Musical Traditions

Enslaved people used music in many aspects of their lives.

- songs were inspired by Christian and African traditions.
- songs were used to help people work .

### Musical Traditions

Music was used for  but had practical aspects as well.

- Songs used for entertainment featured musical , and people often  to them.
- Some songs became codes to share  about  enslavement.



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### Oral Histories and Narratives

Enslaved persons kept their [ ] histories alive by passing them down from generation to [ ] .

Others [ ] personal narratives of their own lives.

- Inspired the [ ] cause

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### Resistance

Resistance to enslavement took many forms, including:

- inciting [ ] .
- [ ] away.
- causing work [ ] .
- [ ] tools and conducting other forms of **sabotage**, or the act of [ ] destroying property or equipment.
- breaking rules, such as by learning to [ ] .

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**Revolts against Enslavement**

were always afraid of revolt.

- Revolts were very ; other types of  were much more common.
- planned a large revolt in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1822.
- Nat Turner led an  revolt in Virginia in 1831.

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### The Underground Railroad

The **Underground Railroad** was a secret  that helped enslaved people  to freedom in the North.

- Was run by  African Americans and  in the North
- Used rail terms; e.g., routes were lines, and helpers were
- Helped at least  people escape, but that was a small percentage of the total population of enslaved people



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**Harriet Tubman (1820–1913)**

- Became one of the best-known  on the Underground Railroad
- Returned to the South  times in ten years
- Saved more than  “passengers”
- Took part in  meetings

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**Runaways**

Enslaved people also  to other areas.

- Some ran  to  territories.
- Many ran away to local areas.
- Some formed “maroon communities” of  in  
the .



# Summary

## Slavery in American Culture



### Lesson Question

What was life like for enslaved African Americans, and how did they resist enslavement?



### Answer

Empty answer box for student response.

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**Review: Life for Enslaved People**

Enslaved people worked  different .

- workers planted crops.
- House workers took care of the main house and the owner's .
- City workers were employed in  and skilled .

Enslaved people lived and worked in  conditions.

- They were often  fed and clothed.
- Overseers and slaveholders often used  against them.
- They could be  from their .
- They had to obey .

**Review: The Preservation of Traditions**

Most enslaved people were .

- They often mixed  and Christian traditions to create their own traditions.
- histories and narratives  their experiences.
- Music was a source of entertainment, but some songs were  with secret  information.

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**Review: Resistance to Enslavement**

Enslaved people resisted enslavement in many ways.

- Tens of thousands , often along the

.

- Some joined  and rebellions.

Many others performed small acts of , such as learning to read,

breaking , or working .



# Summary

## Slavery in American Culture

*Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.*