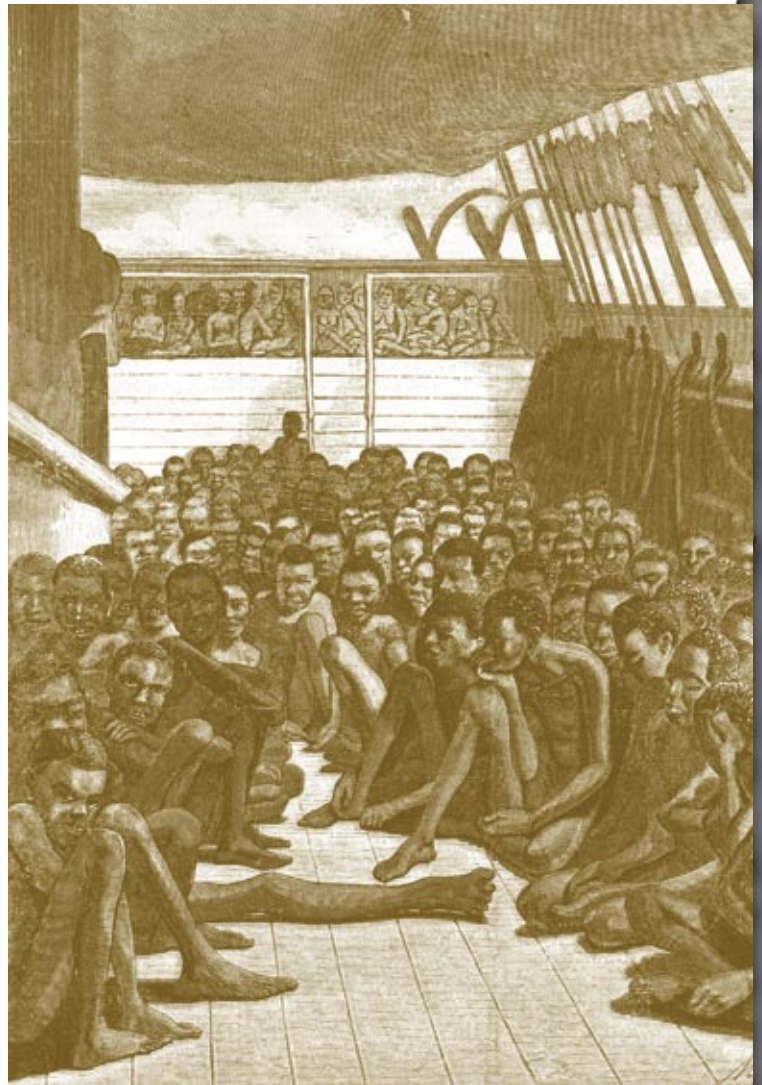


Slavery in the New World

A plantation (plan-TAY-shuhn) is a huge farm. It was hard work to run a plantation. The colonists grew tobacco and cotton. They needed help. So, they put Africans to work in their fields. In 1619, a ship came to Jamestown. It held 60 Africans. They had been baptized on the ship. So, they were Christians. That meant they could not be slaves. They were indentured servants (in-DEN-shured SIR-vuhntz). This meant that they had to work on a farm. This is how they paid for the trip. After seven years, they were set free.

After that, the slave trade began. Slave traders went to Africa. There, they picked up people. Men, women, and children were taken from their homes. They did not want to come. They were forced. The Africans were put onto ships. Then, they were taken to the colonies. But they were not baptized. So, they were thought of as less than human.

The slave traders wanted to make lots of money. They put too many people on the ships. The slave traders did not give the Africans enough food or water. The trip across the ocean was the Middle Passage. Many Africans died on the trip.





From Africa to America

At last, the ship reached the shore. Then, the people were sold. Men who owned land would offer money to buy the Africans. The one who offered the most got the slave. The slaves were bought one by one. Families were split up. One man might buy a mother. Another might buy a child. They might never see each other again.

The slaves led hard lives. They had no rights. They were thought of as things. Their owners could do anything to them. Slaves could be sold. Each day slave families did not know if they would be together.

Many Africans did important things in early America. Phillis Wheatley wrote poetry about her life. And, Benjamin Banneker helped design Washington, D.C.

By the year 1860, there were four million slaves in the United States. Just a few of them were set free. It took almost 200 years and a war to end slavery in America.



Comprehension Question

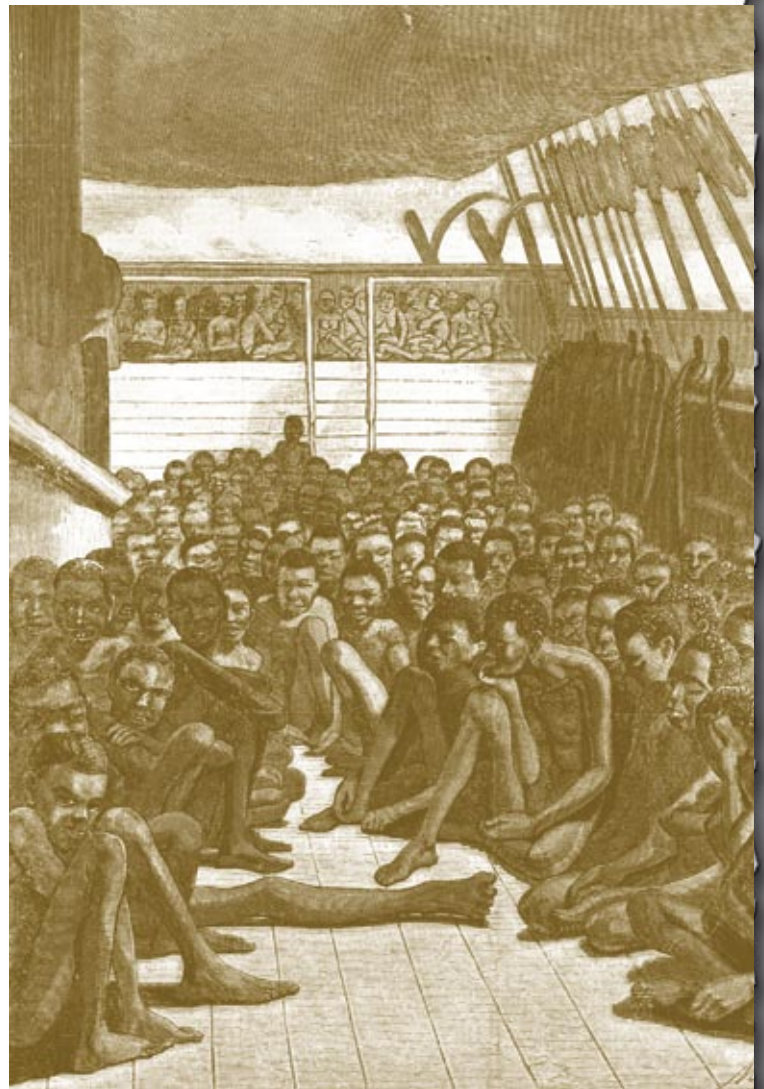
Name at least two things slaves did in the colonies.

Slavery in the New World

A plantation (plan-TAY-shuhn) is a huge farm. It was hard work running a plantation. The colonists needed help. They chose to get Africans to work in their tobacco and cotton fields. In the fall of 1619, a ship came to Jamestown. The governor traded food for 60 Africans. These people had been baptized during the trip. Now they were Christians. So, they could not be slaves. They were indentured servants (in-DEN-shured SIR-vuhntz) instead. They had to work on a farm for seven years. At the end of that time they were free.

Soon after, the slave trade started. Slave traders grew rich by sending ships to Africa. There, they picked up human cargo. These men, women, and children had been taken from their homes. They were put onto ships and taken to the colonies. The Africans were not baptized. As a result, they were thought of as sub-human.

The trip across the ocean on these ships was called the Middle Passage. The slave traders only wanted to make money. They put too many people onto their ships. The slave traders did not give the Africans enough food or water. Many Africans died during the awful trip.





From Africa to the Plantation

At last the ships reached the colonies. Then, the traders sold their captives. They held auctions (AUK-shuhnz). Landowners would bid on the people. The one who bid the most money got the slave. The slaves were bought one at a time. Families could be split up. Different people could buy parents and children! They might never see each other again.

The slaves had tough lives with no rights and no choices. Slaves were thought of as things, just like a book or a tool. The owners could do anything they wanted to them. The slaves could be sold at any time. Slave families never knew if they would stay together.

There were many Africans who contributed to early America. Phillis Wheatley wrote beautiful poetry. And, Benjamin Banneker contributed to the design and layout of Washington, D.C.

By the year 1860, there were four million slaves in the United States. Few were given their freedom. It took almost 200 years and a war to end slavery in America.



Comprehension Question

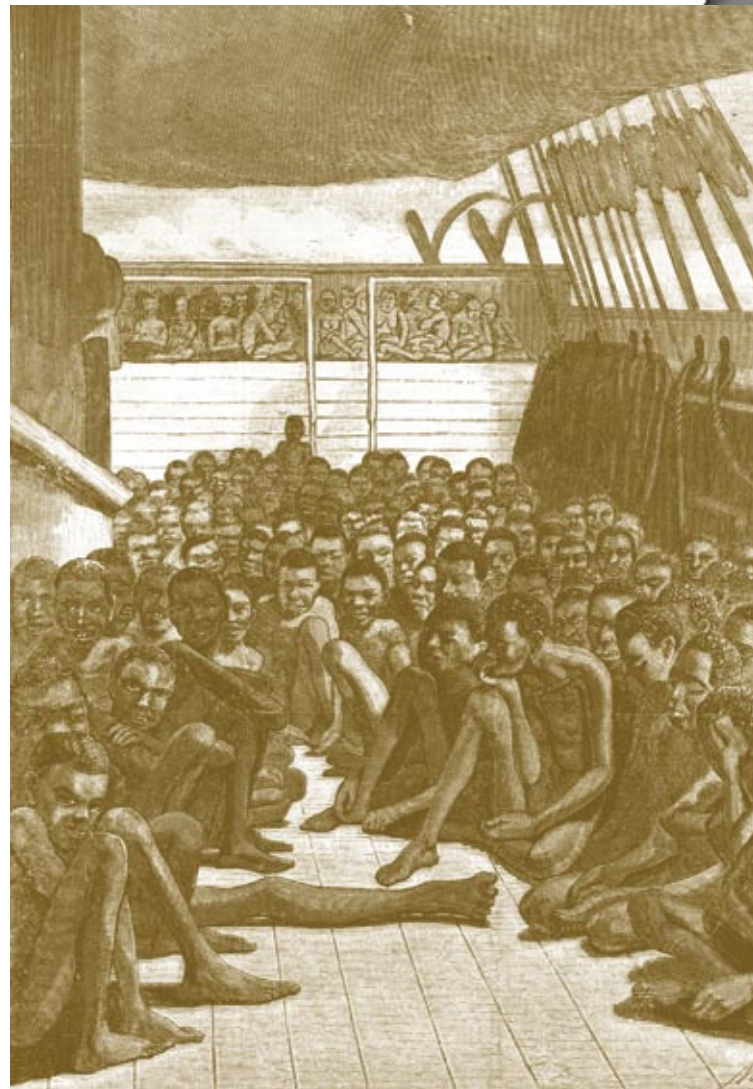
How did the slaves change life in the colonies?

Slavery in the New World

It was hard work settling new land. The colonists decided to use Africans to work on their tobacco and cotton plantations (plan-TAY-shuhns). A plantation is a huge farm with many fields. In the fall of 1619, Jamestown governor George Yeardley traded food for 60 Africans. He bought them to work on the plantations. Since these people had been baptized during the voyage, they were considered Christians. This meant that they could not be slaves. Instead, they were indentured servants (in-DEN-shured SIR-vuhntz). They had to work on a plantation for seven years. At the end of that time they were free.

Soon after, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade started. Slave traders grew wealthy by sending British and colonial ships to Africa and picking up human captives. These men, women, and children were kidnapped from their homes. They were loaded onto ships and taken to the colonies. They were not baptized, and so they were considered sub-human.

The trip across the ocean on the slave ships was called the Middle Passage. The slave traders were greedy. They wanted to make as much money as possible. They packed far too many people onto their ships. The slave traders did not give the Africans enough food or water. Many Africans died during the awful journey.





From Africa to the Plantation

After the ships reached the colonies, the traders sold their captives. The slaves were usually sold at auctions (AUK-shuhnz). Landowners bid on the captives. Whoever bid the most money owned the new slave. Each slave was bid on separately. This meant that families were often split up. Different people could purchase husbands and wives, parents and children! They might never see each other again.

The slaves had tough lives with no rights and no choices. Slaves were thought of as property, just like pieces of furniture. The owners could do whatever they wanted to them. They could sell the slaves at any time. Slave families never knew how long they would be together.

Africans made important contributions to early America. Phillis Wheatley wrote beautiful poetry about life in the North. Benjamin Banneker contributed to the design and layout of Washington, D.C.

By 1860, there were four million slaves in the United States. Few were granted freedom, and even fewer bought their freedom. It took almost 200 years and a war to rid America of slavery.



Comprehension Question

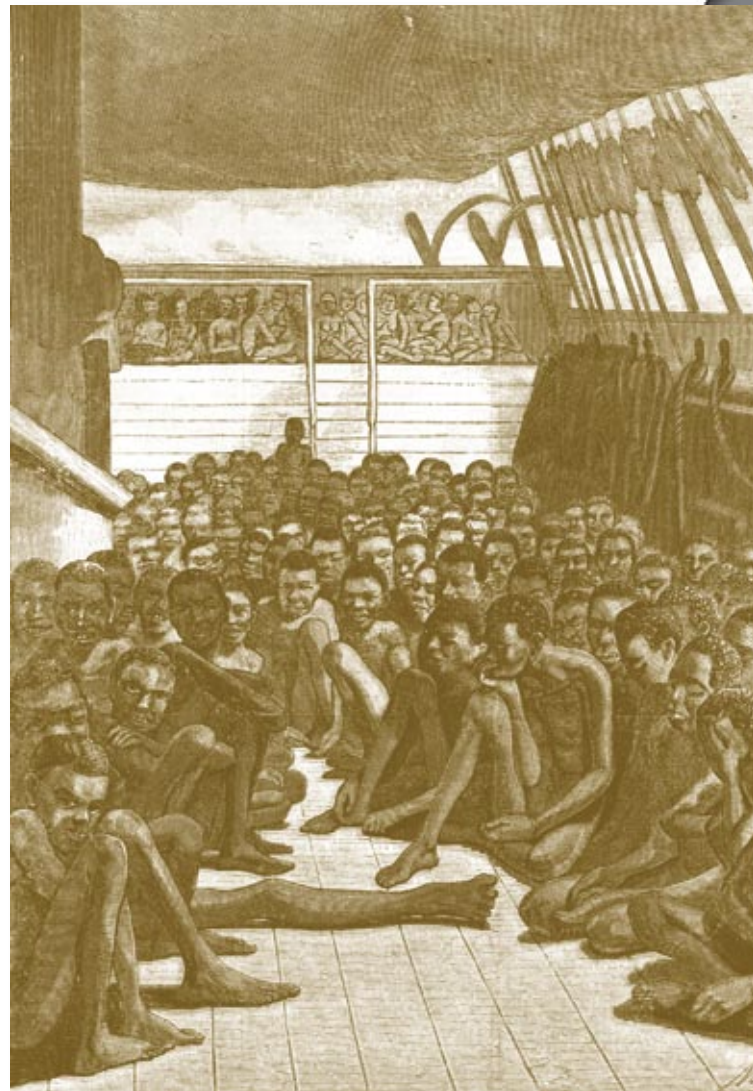
In what ways did the Africans affect life in the New World?

Slavery in the New World

It was hard work settling new land, so the colonists decided to use Africans to work on their tobacco and cotton plantations (plan-TAY-shuhns). In the fall of 1619, Jamestown governor George Yeardley traded a ship full of food for 60 Africans. He purchased them to work on the tobacco plantations. Since these people had been baptized during the voyage, they were considered Christians, and this meant that they could not be slaves. Instead, they were indentured servants (in-DEN-shured SIR-vuhntz) and had to work on a plantation for about seven years to earn their freedom.

Soon after, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade started. Slave traders grew wealthy by sending British and colonial ships to Africa and picking up human captives. These men, women, and children, who had been kidnapped from their homes, were loaded onto ships and taken to the colonies. They were not baptized and were therefore considered sub-human.

The trip across the ocean on the slave ships was called the Middle Passage. The slave traders were greedy and wanted to make as much money as possible. They packed far too many people onto their ships and did not provide them with enough food or water. Many Africans died during the horrific journey.





From Africa to the Plantation

After the ships reached the colonies, the traders sold their captives, most frequently at auctions (AUK-shuhnz). Landowners bid on the captives. Whoever bid the most money owned the new slave. Each individual was bid on separately, and this meant that families were often split up. Different people could purchase husbands and wives, parents and children! They might never see each other again.

The slaves had difficult lives with no rights and no choices. Slaves were considered property, just like pieces of furniture. The owners could do whatever they wanted to them and could sell them at any time. Slave families never knew how long they would stay together.

Even with these challenges, Africans made important contributions to early America. Phillis Wheatley wrote beautiful poetry about life in the North. Benjamin Banneker contributed to the design and layout of Washington, D.C.

By 1860, there were four million slaves in the United States. Few were granted freedom, and even fewer bought their freedom. It took almost 200 years and a war to rid America of slavery.



Comprehension Question

In what ways did the Africans positively affect change in the colonies?