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Grade level: 5

Primary Source Citation:

“Gang of 25 Sea Island Cotton and Rice Negroes,” 1852, Duke University Libraries
Emergence of Advertising in America: 1850-1920,
<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/eaa/broadsides/B03/B0317/B0317-72dpi.html>.

“Public Sale of Negroes by Richard Clagett,” 1833, University of South Carolina University
Libraries Digital Collections,
http://digital.tcl.sc.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/bro&CISOPTR=250&REC=4.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the advertisements while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. What information are the flyers trying to give to the readers?
2. What are the ranges of ages listed on the Public Sale of Negroes flyer?
3. What years were the flyers produced?
4. Which advertisement gave a more descriptive account of the slaves for sale?

Level II: Interpretation

1. Who would want to buy and own a slave?
2. Did any of the slaves offered in the flyers have any rights at all?
3. What are the differences in the house workers and the field workers?
4. Why did people sell and buy slaves?



Level III: Analysis

1. Do the flyers tell you anything about the time period?
2. What inferences can you make about the slaves being sold and their owners?
3. Do you believe that you would own slaves if you lived in the South as a plantation owner in the 1800s?
4. What effect did selling slaves have on families?

A very valuable Blacksmith, wife and daughters; the Smith is in the prime of life, and a perfect master at his trade. His wife about 27 years old, and his daughters 12 and 10 years old have been brought up as house servants, and as such are very valuable. Also for sale 2 likely young negro wenches, one of whom is 16 the other 13, both of whom have been taught and accustomed to the duties of house servants. The 16 year old wench has one eye.

A likely yellow girl about 17 or 18 years old, has been accustomed to all kinds of house and garden work. She is sold for no fault. Sound as a dollar.

House servants: The owner of a family described herein, would sell them for a good price only, they are offered for no fault whatever, but because they can be done without, and money is needed. He has been offered \$1250. They consist of a man 30 to 33 years old, who has been raised in a genteel Virginia family as house servant, Carriage driver etc., in all which he excels. His wife a likely wench of 25 to 30 raised in like manner, as chamber maid, seamstress, nurse etc., their two children, girls of 12 and 4 or 5. They are bright mulattoes, of mild tractable dispositions, unassuming manners, and of genteel appearance and well worthy the notice of a gentleman of fortune needing such.

Also 14 Negro Wenches ranging from 16 to 25 years of age, all sound and capable of doing a good days work in the house or field.