

Created by: Mary Jane Markley, Graham Elementary School

Grade level: 5

Primary source citation: Slave Auction, Richmond Virginia 1861: The Illustrated London News (Feb 16, 1861), vol. 38. p. 139. (Copy in Special Collections Dept., University of Virginia Library) .

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the attached sketch 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 1: Description

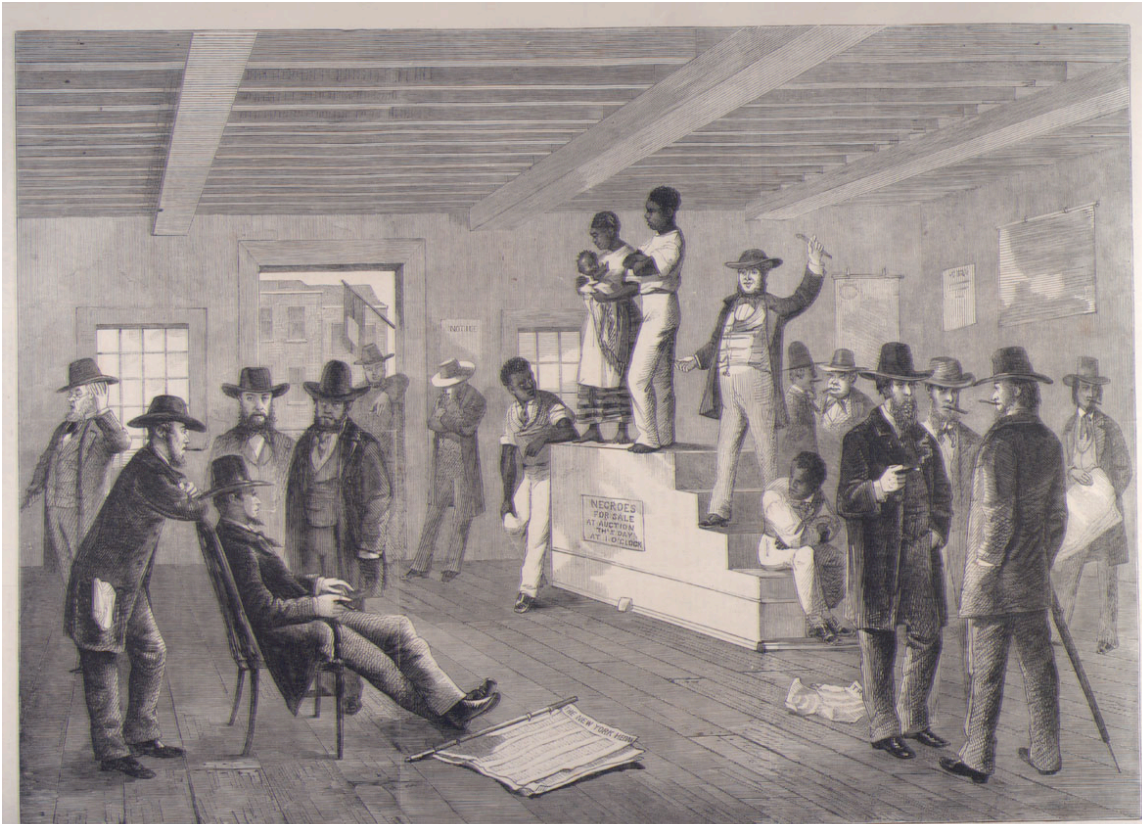
1. What is happening in the sketch?
2. Who are the participants in the picture?
3. Is there any distinguishing marks or features on the document (date, signature, notes)?

Level 2: Interpretation

1. Why was the sketch created? Who created the document?
2. How do you think the African Americans might have felt standing up on that podium?
3. What do you think the perspective would be of the other people in the sketch?

Level 3: Analysis

1. What does this document tell about the beliefs or values slavery in this era?
2. What viewpoint does the creator or eyewitness to the event portray?
3. What questions are left unanswered by the drawing?



A SLAVE AUCTION IN VIRGINIA.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST