
Examining American Slave Narratives

Lesson Overview & Citations

Essential Questions

- What is a slave narrative? What can we learn from them and what do they leave out?
- What does the title page of a slave narrative tell us?
- What do the prefaces and introductions tell us?
- How do slave narratives typically end? How do slave narratives portray life in the North?
- What can we learn from slave narratives, and what do they leave out?

Missouri Learning Standards: Social Studies

Theme 1: Tools of Social Science Inquiry

HS American History II: Strand 1 History: Continuity and Change

Theme 1: Tools of Social Science Inquiry

9-12.AH.1.CC.B

Explain connections between historical context and peoples' perspectives at the time in United States history.

HS American History II: Strand 5 People, Groups, and Cultures

Theme 1: Tools of Social Science Inquiry

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| 9-12.AH.1.PC.A | Using a United States' historical lens, describe how peoples' perspectives shaped the sources/artifacts they created. |
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Missouri Learning Standards: English Language Arts

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| Synthesize Ideas from Multiple Texts | Grade 9-10: Analyze how multiple texts reflect historical and/or cultural contexts. |
| (Approaching Texts as a Researcher): Historical Context | Grade 11-12: Evaluate how an author's work reflects his or her historical/cultural perspective. |

Vocabulary

- **Slave narratives:** stories about the personal experiences of people who escaped from slavery to freedom
- **Dictate:** to speak for someone else to write down your words
- **Uprising:** an act of resistance or rebellion
- **Antebellum:** the time period before the Civil War
- **Fugitive:** can mean a criminal running from the law to avoid justice
- **Refugee:** someone who flees to escape danger

Citations

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- Sneed, Laurel. "Twelve Years a Slave: Analyzing Slave Narratives." *Edsitement*, NEH, 1 Oct. 2019, edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plans/twelve-years-slave-analyzing-slave-narratives.
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- Savage, Kirk. "The Black Man at Lincoln's Feet: Archer Alexander and the Problem of Emancipation." Princeton University, The Trustees of Princeton University, 13 July 2020, [press.princeton.edu/ideas/the-black-man-at-lincolns-feet-archer-alexander-and-t
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