

## **Slavery in South Carolina**

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Imagine that you live in a small village in Africa. You wake up one morning and hear strangers. Before you know it, these strangers capture you and take you to a large boat. There are hundreds of Africans on the boat and you barely have room to move. For six weeks, you travel on the boat. You are scared, hungry, and sick. Where are you going? What will you do there? When your boat arrives at the port, you are unloaded from the ship. A white man pays money for you and you become his property, meaning you belong to him. For the rest of your life, you will work on his plantation.

This is how many Africans were brought to South Carolina and sold as slaves. South Carolina's wealthy planters depended on slavery in the 1800s. Cotton and rice plantations needed many workers, so the slaves grew the crops. The hard work of the slaves made the owners rich. Slaves did not have freedom, meaning they could not make any choices or decisions on their own. They were forced to do whatever their owner, or master told them to do. Slaves were never paid for any of their work. It was a terrible way to live.

In this issue, you will learn what it was like to be a slave in South Carolina. In the lesson, you will read

what real slaves in South Carolina said about their lives. There are no former slaves still alive today because slavery ended in the 1860s. It is important that we learn about the history of African Americans in our state so that the past is not forgotten.