

Expansion Resources and Teaching Ideas: African Americans in Antebellum Richmond

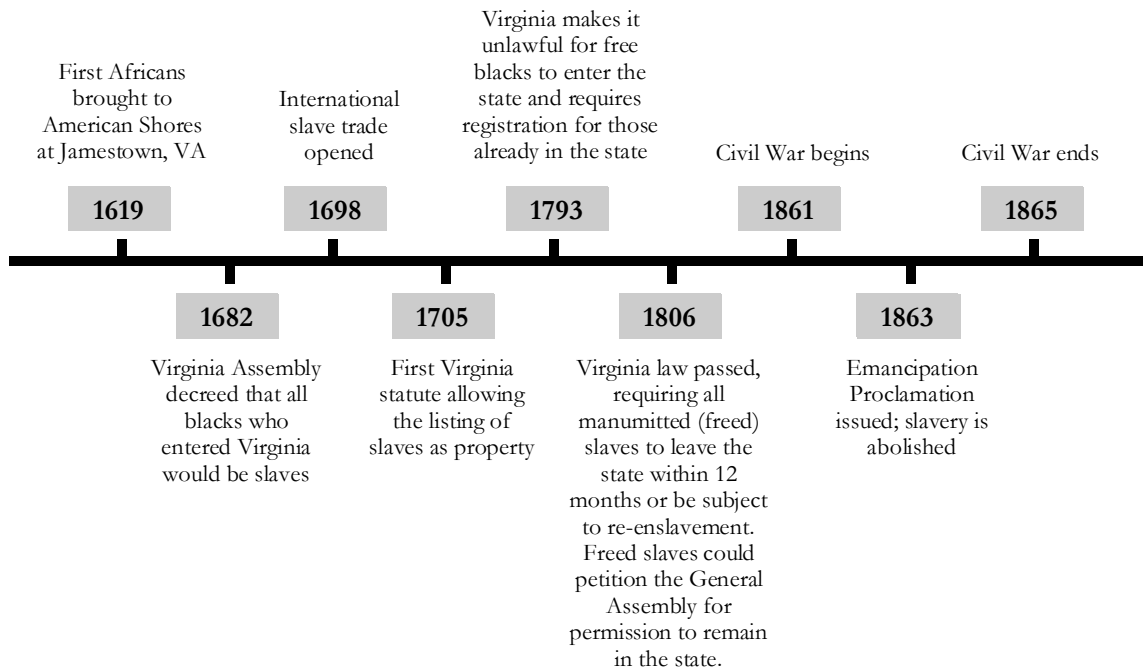


VOCABULARY

Abolitionist:	a person who wanted to get rid of slavery
Antebellum:	the period before the Civil War
Civil War:	(1861-1865) war between the North and the South over territory, government control and the issue of slavery
Hiring Out:	the practice of masters allowing their slaves to work for different businesses or trades in exchange for a fee and the promise of food, clothing, shelter and medicine for the slave
Indentured Servant:	a person bound by contract to work for another for a certain length of time without payment
Manumission:	the release from slavery; papers showing this needed to be carried
Enslaved Individual:	a bonded servant; a person who is wholly subject to the will of another; a person who is the property of another
Slave Trade:	the exchange of humans for goods, money and/or labor



TIMELINE:



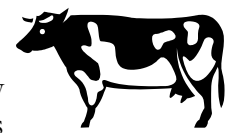
Literature Connection

Choose a novel related to African American history, during Antebellum America. Some possible titles are Freedom Crossing by Margaret Goff Clark, Stealing Freedom by Elisa Carbone, To Be A Slave by Julius Lester, Night John by Gary Paulsen, Slave Dancer by Paula Fox, Chains (Seeds of America) by Laurie Halse Anderson, Trouble Don't Last by Shelley Pearsall, Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis, Steal Away Home by Lois Ruby, or The Glory Field by Walter D. Meyers. Have students choose a character with whom they can best relate. Students should journal from the perspective of this person, taking into consideration the struggles they are up against. Encourage students to truly see things from the vantage point of this character and write as if they have no knowledge of history from our time period.

Storytelling

Since most slaves were not allowed to learn to read, they told stories to one another and passed them down by word of mouth. A popular character in these stories was Brer Rabbit, a trickster who used common sense and intelligence to get himself out of sticky scrapes. Read a story about Brer Rabbit from *Tales of Uncle Remus; The Adventures of Brer Rabbit* by Julius Lester, Jerry Pinkney (Illus). You may also tell the story in your own words. Use the following story starter, based on a Brer Rabbit story, and have the students use their imaginations to write their own conclusions to the story. You can also use other Brer Rabbit tales to come up with some story starters of your own.

Brer Rabbit and Miss Cow



Brer Rabbit was skipping home one day and he felt mighty tired and thirsty. A short way from his house, he came across Miss Cow grazing in a field. Brer Rabbit wanted to see if he could get some milk to drink from Miss Cow, but he knew that she would never give it to him. She had told him no before, even when he was sick. Brer Rabbit decided to try and get the milk, even though it would be a challenge.

Brer Rabbit called out, “Hi there, Sis Cow.” “Hi there, Brer Rabbit,” Miss Cow answered. Brer Rabbit asked, “How’re you feeling these days?” “So, so, Brer Rabbit. And you?” “So, so myself,” Brer Rabbit replied. Then he came up with an idea. He saw that there was a nice fruit tree nearby, but the fruit wasn’t very ripe or ready to be picked yet. Brer Rabbit said, “That fruit up in the tree sure looks good! I would love to have some.” Miss Cow asked, “How will you get it?” “I was hoping that you could help me by ramming your horns hard against the tree to shake it down,” Brer Rabbit answered. Miss Cow didn’t want to make things too hard for Brer Rabbit, so she ran toward the tree and...

Resources

Books

Amateau, Gigi. *Come August, Come Freedom: The Bellows, The Gallows and the Black General Gabriel*, Candlewick Press, 2012.

Campbell, Edward and Rice, Kym. Before Freedom Came: African-American Life in Antebellum South. Richmond: Museum of the Confederacy, 1991.

Egerton, Douglas R. Gabriel's Rebellion: The Virginia Slave Conspiracies of 1800 and 1802. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993.

Gutman, Herbert G. The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925. New York: Pantheon Books: 1976.

Johnson, Walter. River of Dark Dreams. Cambridge: Presidents and Fellows of Harvard, 2013.

Websites

African-American manuscripts: <http://www.upress.virginia.edu/plunkett/mfp.html>

Antebellum slavery info: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/>

VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING SUPPORTED BY THIS PROGRAM:

History & Social Science: K.2, K.3, K.4a-c, K.5a-c, K.6, K.8g, 1.4a-b, 1.7, 1.12c, 2.3, 2.7, 2.12b, 3.8, 3.11a, 3.12, VS.1a-I, VS.3e, VS.4a-b, VS.4e, VS.5b, VS.7a, VS.7c, USI.1a-f, USI.1i, USI.2d, USI.5b-c, USI.8c-d, USI.9

English: Oral Lang. K –3; Communication 4-12; Reading K.5a, K.5c-e, K.6b-c, K.8a-b, K.10a-b, 1.8a-e, 1.10a-l, 2.2a-e, 2.7d, 2.9a-h, 2.10b, 3.4d-f, 3.6a-h, 3.6j-l, 4.4a, 4.4d-e, 4.6a-l, 5.4a-d, 5.4f-g, 5.6a-m

Visual Arts: K.2, K.3, K.4, K.13, K.15, K.18, 1.4, 1.5, 1.8, 1.16, 1.19, 2.4, 2.11, 2.16, 2.17, 2.20, 2.21, 3.6, 3.11, 3.13, 3.15, 4.3, 4.4, 4.18, 4.19, 4.20, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.12, 5.15, 5.18, 5.19

Science: K.1a-b, K.1j-k, K.2a-b, K.4a-d, K.10a-b, K.11a, 1.1a-b, 1.1e-i, 1.8a, 2.1a-b, 2.1g, 2.1i-k, 2.5a-c, 2.8b, 3.1b, 3.1h, 3.1j-k, 3.2a-d, 3.3a, 3.4a-b, 3.6b-c, 3.7a, 3.10a-b, 4.1a-b, 4.1e, 4.1h, 4.5b, 5.1h

Math: K.1, K.10, K.12, K.13, 1.11, 1.13, 1.15, 1.17