Why Were Africans chosen as slaves?



Plantation owners in the Caribbean turned from growing tobacco to producing sugar in the mid 1600's. With the introduction of sugar plantations came an increase in the demand for workers preferably African slaves. Sugar plantations needed more workers to be in the fields and to run the machinery that crushed the cane and boiled the juice, which turned into sugar. It was during this period that the number of African slaves brought to the New World escalated tremendously. Plantation owners preferred Africans as slaves because the Africans:

•• could be obtained in large numbers

•• came from a similar climate and so could adapt to the heat of the tropics

•• were immune to tropical diseases

•• were physically strong

•• were used to slavery while the Caribs fought against it



•• were defenselessness: The Africans were relatively defenseless against slave raiding done with guns because they had nowhere to run since they had no similar weapons and were not united. If a person left his tribe, he ran the risk of being captured by his enemies and sold in to slavery.

•• colour: The Africans skin colour distinguished them from all the other races. The white Europeans considered themselves superior to the Africans, so the idea of enslaving another race was acceptable.

•• religion: The Europeans viewed the Africans as pagans or non-Christians and reasoned that they were doing the Africans a favor by enslaving them and exposing them to Christianity.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name:_____ Grade:_____ Date_____

Social Studies

Why Were Africans chosen as slaves? Write Yes for the Correct answer and No for the incorrect answers

1. What crop became popular by the mid 1600's and what did this demand? (2)

   A. Corn and Oxen

   B. Millet and Sheep

   C. Sugar and Slaves

2. State why plantations needed more workers? (3)

   A. Look after the crops and process the Sugar

   B. To create human zoos of various oddities

   C. Reproduce the same conditions that existed in Africa

T or **F.** Write **T** if the statement is **True** or **F** if the statement is **False**. (10)

_____. Slaves could be obtained in large numbers

_____. Slaves came from a similar climate and so could adapt to the heat of the tropics

_____. Slaves were immune to temperate diseases

_____. Slaves were physically strong

_____. Africans were used to slavery and the Caribs accepted it.

_____. The Africans were relatively defenseless against slave raiding done with guns because they had nowhere to run since they had no similar weapons and were not united.

_____. If a person left his tribe, he could escape freely without being captured and sold as a slave.

_____. The Africans skin color made it difficult to distinguish them from all the other races.

_____. The white Europeans considered themselves superior to the Africans, so the idea of enslaving another race was acceptable.

_____. The Europeans viewed the Africans as pagans or non-Christians and reasoned that they were doing the Africans a favor by enslaving them and exposing them to Christianity.

LIVEWORKSHEETS