Work and Community

Read about daily life and change in the southern West.

SS24.4.12b "Describe the living and working conditions and the cultural practices of enslaved persons engaged in skilled trades, domestic roles, and agricultural production, including effects of the domestic slave trade on their lives."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about work or living conditions, circle one cultural practice, and write a 1 beside a detail showing how the domestic slave trade changed a person's life.

Lives in the Southern West

1. As white settlers took Native peoples' land in the southern West, they built cotton farms in places such as Mississippi. Enslaved people did much of the work there. Some planted, picked, and carried cotton in the heat for long days. Others cooked meals, washed clothes, or cared for children in houses. Skilled workers made tools or built wagons. All were forced to work without pay or the freedom to leave.

2. Where people slept often depended on their work. Field workers commonly lived in small cabins with little space. A cook might sleep near the enslaver's house, where work could begin before sunrise and end late at night. Enslaved people found ways to care for one another. They shared stories, made music, and gathered for worship when they could. These practices helped families and communities hold on to their traditions.

3. As cotton farms spread west, enslavers bought and sold people within the United States. This was the domestic slave trade. A person sold from Virginia to Mississippi might be separated from parents, children, or friends and forced into unfamiliar work. Some people carried songs, skills, and beliefs to new places and built new ties there. Yet new ties did not erase the pain of separation or the loss of freedom.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did work in the cotton fields differ from work in houses?

2. How did skilled workers' jobs differ from field workers' jobs? What did they share?

3. What were living conditions like for many field workers, and how did people help keep their communities strong?

4. How could the domestic slave trade change a person's family life and work?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label about life for enslaved people in the southern West. Include two kinds of work, one living condition, one cultural practice, and how the domestic slave trade could disrupt a life.

ANSWER KEY # Work and Community

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.12b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about work or living conditions, circle one cultural practice, and write a 1 beside a detail showing how the domestic slave trade changed a person's life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did work in the cotton fields differ from work in houses?	**Field workers planted, picked, and carried cotton in the heat. House workers cooked, washed clothes, or cared for children.**
2	How did skilled workers' jobs differ from field workers' jobs? What did they share?	**Skilled workers made tools or built wagons, while field workers grew and gathered cotton. Both were forced to work without pay or the freedom to leave.**
3	What were living conditions like for many field workers, and how did people help keep their communities strong?	**Many field workers lived in small cabins with little space. People shared stories, made music, and gathered for worship when they could.**
4	How could the domestic slave trade change a person's family life and work?	**A person sold to a new place could be separated from family or friends and forced into unfamiliar work.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Some enslaved people picked cotton in the heat, while skilled workers made tools. Many field workers lived in small cabins with little space. People shared stories and made music to help keep their communities strong. The domestic slave trade could separate someone from family and force them to work in a new place.

Accept accurate paraphrases and other passage-supported examples. For the museum label, look for all five requested details across exactly four sentences.