

Survival and Resistance

How slavery expanded and how enslaved people acted within brutal conditions.

7.2e "Over the course of the 17th and 18th centuries, slavery grew in the colonies. Enslaved Africans utilized a variety of strategies to both survive and resist their conditions."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details explaining why or where slavery grew. Circle three survival or resistance strategies and number them 1-3.

Life, Labor, and Resistance

- ① During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, slavery expanded in England's mainland colonies. Chesapeake planters relied on enslaved labor to grow tobacco. Southern rice and indigo plantations demanded large workforces, often in dangerous conditions. Crop profits encouraged owners to buy more enslaved people. Northern ports and merchants also profited through shipping, trade, and goods made by enslaved labor. Slavery existed in cities and rural areas.
- ② Enslaved Africans faced violence, forced labor, and family separation. Yet they built communities, sharing news, skills, food, music, stories, and religious practices. These connections preserved cultural traditions and provided support. People created families despite laws and sales that could divide them. In New York City and on rural estates, enslaved people performed household work, skilled trades, and agricultural labor under laws that denied them freedom and many legal rights.
- ③ Enslaved people also resisted in different ways. Some resisted daily control by working more slowly, breaking tools, or pretending not to understand an order. Others ran away for a short time or sought freedom permanently. Enslaved people sometimes gathered secretly to plan, share information, or practice religion beyond an owner's control. Revolts were another form of resistance. In 1712, enslaved people in New York City rose up against their enslavers. Resistance was dangerous, and people who were caught could face harsh punishment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did slavery expand on tobacco, rice, and indigo plantations?

2 Name one place where slavery existed and describe one kind of work enslaved people did there.

3 How did sharing food, stories, music, and religious practices help enslaved people survive?

4 How was daily resistance different from a revolt? Use details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences that explain one strategy that helped enslaved people survive and one strategy that resisted control. In your third sentence, explain what these strategies show about enslaved people's actions under slavery.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details explaining why or where slavery grew. Circle three survival or resistance strategies and number them 1-3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did slavery expand on tobacco, rice, and indigo plantations?	These crops needed large workforces, and plantation owners earned profits from enslaved labor and bought more enslaved people.
2	Name one place where slavery existed and describe one kind of work enslaved people did there.	Answers may include New York City or rural estates, where enslaved people did household work, skilled trades, or agricultural labor.
3	How did sharing food, stories, music, and religious practices help enslaved people survive?	Sharing these things helped people preserve cultural traditions and support one another.
4	How was daily resistance different from a revolt? Use details from the passage.	Daily resistance included actions such as working more slowly, breaking tools, or pretending not to understand orders. A revolt was a larger uprising, such as the 1712 action in New York City.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sharing food, stories, and religious practices helped enslaved people support one another and preserve traditions. Running away challenged an enslaver's control and could offer a path toward freedom. Both strategies show that enslaved people acted to survive conditions and resist slavery.

Accept any passage-based explanation of crop labor demands, profit, locations, survival, or resistance. For the open response, accept a clear survival strategy and resistance strategy from the passage, plus an explanation of agency or purpose.