

Lives and Legacies

Cultural strength and hardship in colonial America

USI.4.d "identifying the cultural connections, conflicts, and common values of enslaved people in the Western Hemisphere, as well as challenges and hardships endured by enslaved people brought to colonial America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline cultural connections or shared values, circle hardships or conflicts, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside three ways enslaved people resisted.

Enslaved People in Colonial America

- ① During the colonial era, especially in the 1600s and 1700s, millions of Africans were forced across the Atlantic to the Americas. The voyage, called the Middle Passage, was deadly. Captive people were crowded onto ships, given little food and water, and faced disease. Families and people who spoke the same language could be separated. Many people did not survive the crossing.
- ② In colonial America, enslaved people came from many African societies and had different languages, skills, and traditions. They built connections with one another by sharing stories, music, foods, religious beliefs, and knowledge. Some blended African traditions with Christian practices. Parents and elders worked to teach children family history and customs, even when enslavers tried to control their lives.
- ③ Enslaved people often shared values such as protecting family, helping neighbors, keeping traditions, and seeking freedom. Yet colonial laws treated them as property and denied them basic rights. Enslavers could force people to work long hours, punish them, sell family members, or limit where they traveled. Enslaved people resisted in many ways, including preserving culture, slowing work, escaping, and sometimes organizing rebellions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two hardships people faced during the Middle Passage.

2 What is one way enslaved people built cultural connections with one another in colonial America?

3 Choose one shared value from the passage. What conflict or hardship could threaten that value?

4 Name one way enslaved people resisted. Explain what that action protected or challenged.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum caption about an imagined enslaved family or community in colonial America. Include one cultural connection or shared value, one hardship or conflict, and one way the people responded.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline cultural connections or shared values, circle hardships or conflicts, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside three ways enslaved people resisted. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two hardships people faced during the Middle Passage.	Any two: crowded ships, little food or water, disease, separation from family or language groups, and death during the crossing.
2	What is one way enslaved people built cultural connections with one another in colonial America?	They shared stories, music, foods, religious beliefs, knowledge, family history, or customs. They also blended African traditions with Christian practices.
3	Choose one shared value from the passage. What conflict or hardship could threaten that value?	For example, protecting family was threatened when enslavers could sell family members or separate people.
4	Name one way enslaved people resisted. Explain what that action protected or challenged.	For example, preserving culture protected traditions and challenged enslavers' attempts to control people's lives. Other acceptable actions are slowing work, escaping, or organizing rebellions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a colonial plantation, adults shared songs and stories to help children remember family traditions. A mother feared being separated from her children because enslavers could sell family members. The family supported one another and kept their traditions alive.

Accept accurate details from the passage and reasonable explanations that connect a shared value or cultural practice to a hardship, conflict, or resistance. For the open response, check for all three required parts and historically accurate language.