

Laws That Enslaved

Read how Virginia laws made race-based enslavement permanent.

VS.4.d "describing the laws that established race-based enslavement;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each year, circle the words that tell what the court or law did, and number the events from 1 to 4 in time order.

Virginia's Changing Laws

- ① In early Virginia, some Africans and Europeans first worked for a set number of years as indentured servants. Over time, colonial leaders passed laws that treated people differently because of race. In 1640, a court gave John Punch, an African man who had run away with two European servants, a sentence of lifelong service. The European men received shorter terms.
- ② Virginia laws made this unfair system stronger. A 1662 law said that a child's status followed the status of the mother. If the mother was enslaved, her child was enslaved too. A 1667 law said that baptism did not make an enslaved person free. These laws helped make enslavement permanent for many African families in the colony.
- ③ In 1705, Virginia passed laws often called the Virginia Slave Codes. They said enslaved people were property and gave enslavers broad control over them. The codes also treated Africans and their descendants differently from white people. Together, these laws created race-based enslavement, a system in which people of African descent could be held in slavery for life and their children could be enslaved.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the 1640 court sentence treat John Punch differently from the two European servants?

2 What did the 1662 law say about the status of a child whose mother was enslaved?

3 According to the 1667 law, what happened if an enslaved person was baptized?

4 Name two ways the 1705 Virginia Slave Codes strengthened race-based enslavement.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences explaining how two laws or decisions from the passage worked together to make enslavement race-based and permanent. Include the years and the effect of each one.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each year, circle the words that tell what the court or law did, and number the events from 1 to 4 in time order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1640 court sentence treat John Punch differently from the two European servants?	John Punch received lifelong service, while the two European servants received shorter terms.
2	What did the 1662 law say about the status of a child whose mother was enslaved?	The child was enslaved because the child's status followed the mother's status.
3	According to the 1667 law, what happened if an enslaved person was baptized?	Baptism did not make the enslaved person free.
4	Name two ways the 1705 Virginia Slave Codes strengthened race-based enslavement.	They treated enslaved people as property and gave enslavers broad control. They also treated Africans and their descendants differently from white people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1662, Virginia made a child's status follow the mother's status. In 1667, baptism could not change an enslaved person's status. Together, these rules made enslavement a lasting race-based system for many African families.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. For the open response, accept any two dated events that are explained as helping make enslavement racial and lasting.