Slavery

The following questions can be used for a general knowledge quiz on slavery, classroom discussion on the Slave Trade and the aftermath of slavery, or to supplement the previewing questions for the DVD programs Slavery and the Making of America. The questions are divided into four parts to follow the order of the programs.

Part 1
The Portuguese were the first Europeans to initiate the Slave Trade in Africa, but it was not their original reason for traveling to Africa. What do you think their purpose was?

What was Africa’s involvement in the Slave Trade? Why did Africans participate?

What did indentured servants and African slaves have in common? What distinguished them?

Part 2
What role did Christianity play in the Slave Trade?

How did the growing resistance to the British colonial government before the American Revolution challenge the basis of slavery?

Part 3
What structures did Blacks create to resist slavery and assist each other?

How did white society respond to slave rebellions?

How did the Cotton Gin affect slavery?

Part 4
What arguments did Whites use to justify slavery?

How do you think Black and White abolitionists might have differed in the ways in which they sought to end slavery?

What functions did the slave narratives serve?

How did Lincoln respond to the abolitionists’ call for the end of slavery?

Do you think it is important to remember and discuss slavery? Why?
What is the legacy of slavery today? How do you think it continues to affect American society?

Do you believe that African Americans should receive reparations for the injustices of slavery?

Do you believe that Africans from the continent should receive reparations for the injustices of slavery?