

# Internal Slave Trade

## Notes to the Teacher

The following cities were slave-trading hubs in the United States during the early 1800s:

1. Galveston, Texas
2. New Orleans, Louisiana
3. Baton Rouge, Louisiana
4. Vicksburg Mississippi
5. Jackson, Mississippi
6. Tuscaloosa, Alabama
7. Montgomery, Alabama
8. Mobile, Alabama
9. Pensacola, Florida
10. St. Petersburg, Florida
11. Savannah, Georgia
12. Charleston, South Carolina
13. Wilmington, Delaware
14. Baltimore, Maryland
15. Washington, D.C.
16. Alexandria, Virginia
17. Wilmington, NC
18. Salisbury, NC
19. Richmond, Virginia
20. Petersburg, Virginia
21. Norfolk, Virginia
22. Knoxville, Tennessee
23. Nashville, Tennessee
24. Memphis, Tennessee
25. Louisville, Kentucky
26. Frankfort, Kentucky

Begin by asking students to tell you what they know about slavery in the United States. Write their responses on chart paper, correcting any misconceptions students may have.

Be sure students understand that slavery was prevalent in the south, but that not everyone had slaves—only those who could afford them. Originally brought over from Africa—trace the route from the west coast of Africa to the United States on a large map—slaves first came here in 1619. They were brought to the Virginia colony of Jamestown.

Slaves had to do what they were told, and they had no rights. They were not paid for their work and were forbidden to enter into legal contacts—including marriage—and were not allowed to learn to read or write. Slaves were bought and sold like property, often at auctions. Many slave-trading hubs arose.

With a marker, write each of the locations listed above on an index card. Using a pull-down map of the United States, have students locate each of these cities. Mark each place on the map by using a wipe-off crayon or by putting a small piece of Post-it paper next to the city. After all cities have been marked have students make factual statements about what they see. [Example: “All of the cities are located in southern states.” ]

Discuss transportation during the early 1800s. Ask students to describe both methods of traveling and the kinds of roads that were available. Lead them to the conclusion that, generally speaking, travel by water was easiest and fastest. Direct students’ attention back to the large map. Ask, “Which of the hubs could be easily reached by water?” If no one mentions cities on major rivers, point them out. Ask, “What about these cities? Could they be easily reached by water?”

Have students name the cities that can be easily reached by water, followed by telling the body or bodies of water one would travel in order to reach the city.

Example: By traveling up the Mississippi River from the Gulf of Mexico, I could reach Louisville, Kentucky.

## Internal Slave Trade

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:**  
 On the map entitled, "Internal Slave Trade," each dot represents a slave trading center.  
 Next to each dot, write the number of the city.  
 Use the table below to number the dots on the map.

State	Cities
Texas	1. Galveston
Louisiana	2. Baton Rouge 3. New Orleans
Mississippi	4. Vicksburg 5. Jackson 6. Natchez
Alabama	7. Tuscaloosa 8. Montgomery 9. Mobile
Florida	10. Pensacola
Georgia	11. St. Petersburg
South Carolina	12. Savannah
Delaware	13. Charleston
Maryland	14. Wilmington
	15. Baltimore
	16. Washington, D.C.
Virginia	17. Alexandria 18. Richmond 19. Petersburg 20. Norfolk
North Carolina	21. Wilmington 22. Salisbury
Tennessee	23. Knoxville 24. Nashville 25. Memphis
Kentucky	26. Louisville 27. Frankfort

1. Texas has only one slave-trading center while Virginia has four. Why do you think this is so?

---

---

2. What is the **latitude** of the most northern slave trading center? Use a map containing lines of latitude to find out.

---

3. In the table, below, list all the slave-trading centers that fall **between 76 and 83 degrees west longitude**. Then, write the name of the state in which each city is located.

City	State

4. In the table, below, list five slave-trading centers located on rivers and the river on which the city is located.

City	River

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Slave-Trading Centers 1810 - 1860