

Sale of African American Female Slave to Free African American Man lesson plan

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Overview

Students will read a 1783 bill of sale, Samuel Stanton selling a slave, Binah, to Prince, a free man, and use the Observe-Think-Wonder graphic organizer to interpret this primary source.

Time: one 30 minute class period

Grade level: 5

Standards: Minnesota Social Studies 5.4.1.2.2, 5.4.4.16.3, 5.4.4.16.5

Objective

Students will be able to analyze a primary source document using an Observe-Think-Wonder graphic organizer, and draw conclusions about slavery from their analysis.

Materials: copies of the slave bill of sale for each student, Observe-Think-Wonder graphic organizer for each student (or student notebooks)

Procedure

1. Give each student a copy of the slave bill of sale and an Observe-Think-Wonder graphic organizer. Students will have 5-10 minutes (as needed) to read the document and complete the graphic organizer. They must have at least two entries for each of the sections of the graphic organizer.
2. After students have completed the graphic organizer, have them share and discuss their organizers with a partner for several minutes.
3. Discuss their observations as a class. Students should have noted that the bill of sale is from a New England colony. If no one has wondered why an African American man might buy an African American woman, add your own "I Wonder."
4. Have students write the answer to the question, "What do you think is the most important thing you learned about slavery from this document?"

1783 Oct

Samuel Stanton of Stonington in the County of
New London for and in Consideration of thirty Pounds
Lawfull Money to me ⁱⁿ hand paid by Prince A Certain
Negro of Sd town which is to my Content do Sell
~~A Certain~~ ~~and~~ Deliver unto the Sd Prince
One certain negro woman Named Binah Aged About
thirty ~~years~~ ^{Eight} ~~years~~ Old which Sd Negro is A Slave
Life and I the Said Samuel Stanton for my Self
Heirs & Covenant to and with the Said Prince
His heirs & to warrant and Defend the Said Binah
Against the Claims and Demand of All persons
Soever in witness whereof I have hereunto Set
Hand the 6th Day of October AD 1783

witness Present

John Williams
Job Tyson

Samuel Stanton

Connecticut Historical Society

I Samuel Stanton of Stonington in the County of New London for and in Consideration of thirty Pounds Lawfull Money to me in hand paid by Prince A Certain Negro of Sd [Said] town which is to my Content do Sell and Deliver unto the Sd Prince One certain negro woman Named Binah Aged About thirty Eight years Old which Sd Negro is A Slave for Life and I the Said Samuel Stanton for my Self Heirs & Covenant to and with the Said Prince His heirs & to warrant and Defend the Said Binah Against the Claims and Demand of All persons Whatsoever in witness whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand the 6th Day of October AF 1783.

Witness Present
John Williams 3/d
Job Tyson

Samuel Stanton