

Student Handouts:

Text Handout:

Slave Life on a Southern Plantation



This slave was an artisan expert in sewing.

After 12 to 15 hours of work, the slaves could return to their cabins. Although they were tired, they still had to prepare their evening meals, tend to their children, **mend** their clothing, etc. Many slept very little when they had to work again.

Slaves worked from dawn to well after dark from Monday through Saturday. Sundays were the only day they had to rest during the week. The only holidays that were usually free of work were Christmas and the Fourth of July.

Many large Southern plantations also had a small number of skilled **artisans** who were also slaves, as well as enslaved house workers. The artisans were carpenters, blacksmiths, and craftsmen of every description. They were usually men. House workers could be male or female. Slave women did all the cooking, cleaning, washing of clothes, milking, iron polishing, sweeping, food service, and child care. Slave men tended the horses, drove the carriages, and kept the gardens. House slaves worked seven days a week. They also had to be alert at any hour of the day or night.



Slaves lived in cabins like this one in the picture.

Most slaves lived in one-room **cabins**. The cabins were made of logs. They were not well built. As a result, some roofs could not stop rain or snow. If a slave cabin had windows, it didn't have glass. When the rain and snow came in, the dirt floor of the cabin turned into mud. Slaves didn't have any furniture. They slept on a pile of rags or **straw**. Some were given a blanket; many were not.

House slaves often lived in the plantation house. They might have had a space to sleep near the kitchen, laundry, or stable. House slaves usually had better clothing than slaves in the field because they

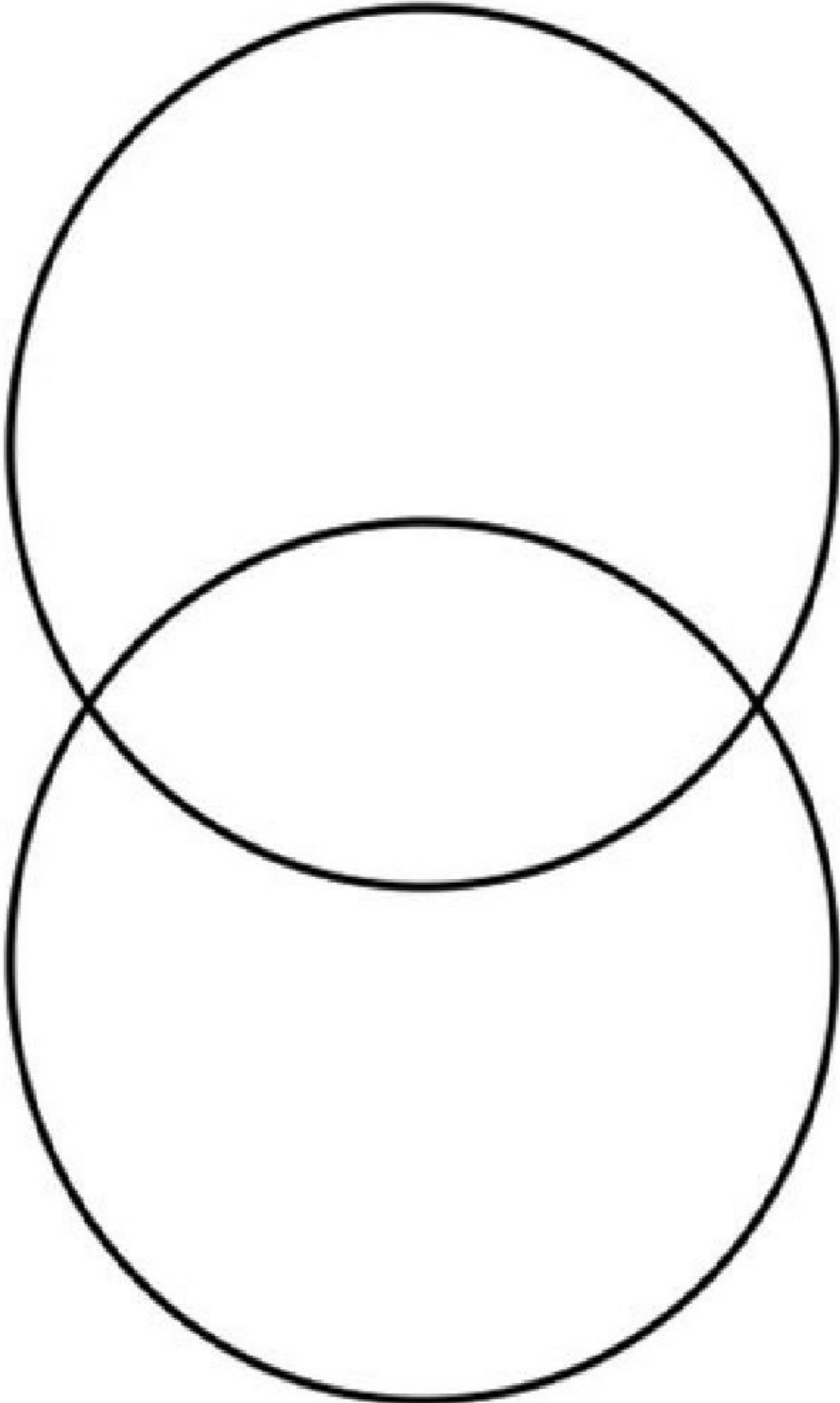
often received their slave owners' old clothes. Some slaves received shoes; many did not receive any.



Sewing Machine Venn Diagram:

Clothing Today

Clothing in the 1800's



Visual Discovery Handout:

1.	<p>TYPE OF ARTIFACT Describe the material from which it was made: bone pottery, metal, wood, stone, leather, glass, paper, cardboard, cotton, plastic, other material.</p>
2.	<p>SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE ARTIFACT Describe how it looks and feels: shape, color, texture, size, weight, movable parts, anything printed, stamped, or written on it.</p>
3.	<p>USES OF THE ARTIFACT</p> <p>A. What might it have been used for? _____</p> <p>B. Who might have used it? _____</p> <p>C. Where might it have been used? _____</p> <p>D. When might it have been used? _____</p>
4.	<p>WHAT DOES THE ARTIFACT TELL US?</p> <p>A. What does it tell us about technology of the time in which it was made and used?</p> <p>B. What does it tell us about the life and times of the people who made it and used it?</p> <p>C. Can you name a similar item today?</p>
5.	<p>BRING A SKETCH, A PHOTOGRAPH, OR THE ARTIFACT LISTED IN 4C ABOVE TO CLASS</p>

