

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level: High School (Grades 9-10)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.2
Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.8
Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.

Library of Congress Resources:



Slavery as it exists in America. Slavery as it exists in England
(1850)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2008661524/>

Topic Background:

In the United States in 1850, our country was divided in its view on slavery. Abolitionists were typically from the North and wanted to end slavery. People in the South held the opposite view. The Civil War would not begin for eleven more years.

Source(s) Used:

The source used for this assessment is a political cartoon from 1850 entitled *Slavery as it exists in America. Slavery as it exists in England*. This drawing challenges the Northern abolitionist view of the institution of slavery, favorably contrasting the living conditions of American slaves with the industrial poor in England. The first scene (top) is impossibly naive: Southern slaves dance and play as four gentlemen--two Northerners and two Southerners--observe. A conversation occurs in which the Northerners comment about how pleasant it is and feel that stories have been exaggerated, and the Southerners tell them about how much enjoyment his slaves have each day. The second scene (bottom) takes place outside of a British textile factory. There are many conversations occurring at once, all painting a dismal picture of the lives of the working class in manufacturing towns. This portrayal comes from Chapter V, Book Second, of Edward Lytton Bulwer's "England and the English," first published in 1833. In the lower margin is a portrait of "[George] Thompson the English Anti-Slavery Agitator" and the quote "I am proud to boast that Slavery does not breathe in England," with reference to "his speech at the African Church in Belknap St." Thompson made a speaking tour of New York and New England in 1850-51.

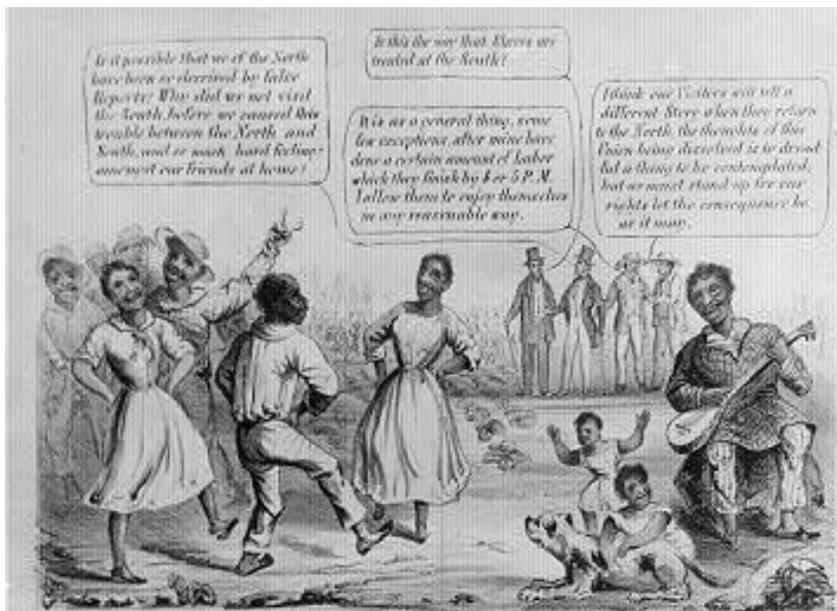
Excerpted from: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2008661524/>

Multiple Choice Answer Key:

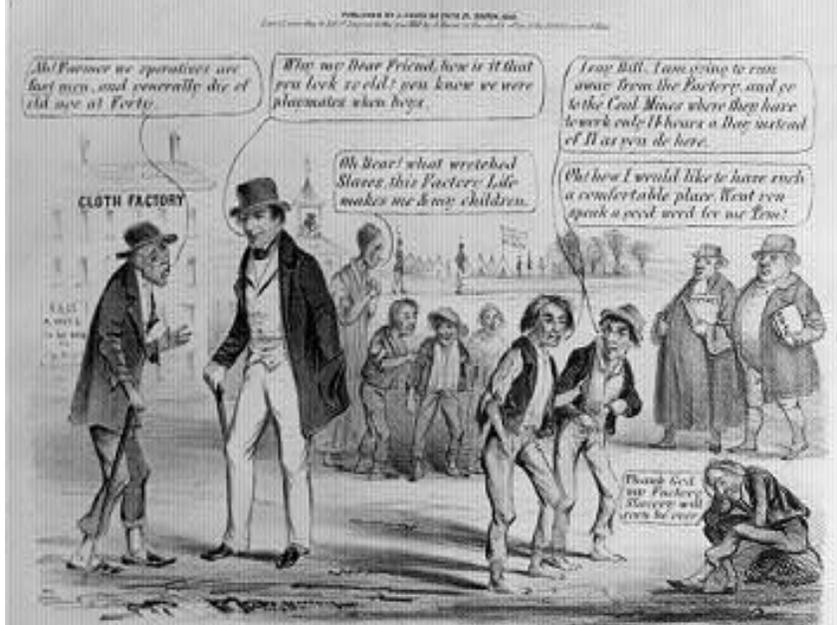
Question 1 – B

Question 2 – B

Slavery as it exists in America. Slavery as it exists in England.



SLAVERY AS IT EXISTS IN AMERICA.



SLAVERY AS IT EXISTS IN ENGLAND.

— THOMPSON —
THE ENGLISHMAN'S SLAVERY AGITATOR.
I am proud to boast that Slavery does not breathe in England!
[see speech at the African Church in Belknap].

Left text box: "Is it possible that we of the North have been so deceived by false Reports? Why did we not visit the South before we caused this trouble between the North and South, and so much hard feelings amongst our friends at home?"

Middle (large) text box: "It is as a general thing, some few exceptions, after mine have done a certain amount of Labor which they finish by 4 or 5 P.M. I allow them to enjoy themselves in any reasonable way."

Right text box: "I think our Visitors will tell a different Story when they return to the North, the thoughts of this Union being dissolved is to [sic] dreadful a thing to be contemplated, but we must stand up for our rights let the consequence be as it may."

Ah! Farmer we operatives are fast men, and generally die of old age at Forty.

Why my Dear Friend, how is it that you look so old? you know we were playmates when boys.

I say Bill, I am going to run away from the Factory, and go to the Coal Mines where they have to work only 14 hours a Day instead of 17 as you do here.

Oh Dear! what wretched Slaves, this Factory Life makes me & my children.

Oh how I would like to have such a comfortable place. Next you speak a word for me Tom!

Top middle text box: "Why my Dear Friend, how is it that you look so old? you know we were playmates when boys."

Top left text box: "Ah! Farmer we operatives are "fast men," and generally die of old age at Forty."

Bottom middle text box: "Oh Dear! what wretched Slaves, this Factory Life makes me & my children."

Top right text box: "I say Bill, I am going to run away from the Factory, and go to the Coal Mines where they have to work only 14 hours a Day instead of 17 as you do here."

Middle right text box: "Oh! how I would like to have such a comfortable place."

Bottom right text box: "Thank God my Factory Slavery will soon be over."

Lower margin:
-Thompson-
THE ENGLISH ANTI SLAVERY AGITATOR
"I am proud to boast that Slavery does not breathe in England"
(speech at the African Church in Belknap)

Questions:

1. Which details are the most helpful for understanding the central idea of the image? (CCSS.ELA.RI.9-10.2)
 - a. The people in the England portion of the image look very tired and worn down, and those in the American portion are all dancing and appear to be very happy.
 - b. The people in the England drawing are standing in front of a building labeled 'Cloth Factory'.
 - c. The clothing worn by the American slaves is brighter and nicer than the clothing worn by the England slaves.
 - d. The gentlemen talking in the background in the top image are tall and have a healthy appearance, whereas the man and woman in the background of the bottom image are shown to be overweight and in much poorer health.

2. Look at the man sitting on the rock in the bottom right hand corner. Read this statement from that man: "Thank God my Factory Slavery will soon be over." Which of the following statements represent a central claim that is best supported by this sentence? (CCSS.ELA.RI.9-10.8)
 - a. Slaves in England have such an awful life that they'd rather die than keep working in the factories.
 - b. Slavery in America is not bad, and American slaves live happier, longer lives than English factory workers.
 - c. Slaves in England only live to be about 40 years old and they have much longer work days than slaves in America.
 - d. Slavery is awful in both countries. Factory slaves in England are as mistreated as slaves in America.