

Project Title: "Roots of the Economy: The Legacy of Slavery in Three Cities"

Project Overview

In this project, students will explore how slavery shaped the economies of New Orleans, Montgomery, and Washington, D.C., and how its legacy continues to affect these cities today. Through research, creative presentations, and critical thinking, students will analyze the historical context, economic implications, and long-term effects of slavery on urban development.

BIG Thesis Questions: These are the questions you are seeking to answer for your project.

- In what ways did slavery and, more particularly, the slave trade play a role in the development of your assigned city—economically, socially, and politically?
 - How do these effects still play a role in the city today, and what, if anything, is the city doing to confront this past?
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Objectives

- Understand the historical context of slavery in the United States.
 - Analyze the economic roles that slavery played in New Orleans, Montgomery, and Washington, D.C.
 - Discuss the long-term effects of slavery on these cities.
 - Present findings creatively and engage in peer discussions.
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Students	New Orleans, LA	Montgomery, AL	Washington, DC
Period 3	Nevaeh Amirah Wage Addison T	LaTristan Sommer Addison M Morgan	Paige Kellan NeNe Lilian
Period 5	Khemjah Zealand John Nettles Mackenzie Symone Ethan	Alec Aiden Roman Ava Jada Willem William H	Janelle Mia Khloe Isabella John K Charlie

This is NOT a group project. The work you do must be done by yourself—the

research, the argument, the writing, and the presentation.

Project Components

1. Research

- Each student or group will research one of the three cities.
- Focus on the following aspects:
 - **Historical Background:** Brief overview of slavery's presence in the city.
 - **Economic Contributions:** How slavery supported the economy (e.g., agriculture, trade, labor).
 - **Post-Slavery Effects:** Economic changes after slavery was abolished and how these cities adapted.
 - **Modern Implications:** Current economic challenges and contributions related to this history.

2. Creative Presentation

- **Poster Presentation:** Create a visual display summarizing your findings with images, charts, and bullet points. These visual presentations will be displayed as a gallery walk in Mancini Library.
- **Oral Presentation:** students will deliver a 2-3 minute talk to classmates about their findings and explain their research, their argument, and their understandings. Be ready to answer questions and engage in discussions about the implications of slavery's legacy on today's economy and society in these cities.

3. Reflection Paper

- Write an individual response reflection on what you learned through this project, focusing on the connections between historical slavery and modern economic conditions.

Assessment Criteria

- **Research Depth:** Quality and depth of information presented.
- **Creativity:** How well the presentation captures attention and conveys information.
- **Engagement:** Participation in class discussions and ability to answer questions.
- **Reflection:** Thoughtfulness and insight in the reflection paper.

Timeline of Project:

Week 1: Introduction to the project and assignment of cities; research phase; gather materials and data.

Week 2: Write and create presentations; practice sharing findings.

Week 3-4: Present to the class and participate in discussions and Gallery Walk of posters. Submit reflection papers.

Tips for Using Primary Sources

- **Analyze Context:** consider who created the source, why it was created, and its historical context.
- **Cross-Reference:** Compare different sources to build a comprehensive understanding of the economic impact of slavery.
- **Document Findings:** take notes on key insights and quotes that support their research.

Specific Primary Sources

1. Enslaved Peoples' Narratives

- **"Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers Project"** (1936-1938) – An autobiography detailing Douglass's experiences and perspectives on slavery and its economic implications.
- [Alabama Writers Project–Enslaved Testimonies](#)
- [Condition of a Plantation Outside of Washington, DC](#)
- [A Slave Auction](#)

2. Newspapers, Economic Reports and Advertisements

- **Newspapers from the 19th Century:** Articles and advertisements from newspapers such as the [New Orleans Daily Picayune](#) and [Montgomery Advertiser](#) discussing the slave trade and its economic implications.
- **Shipping Records:** Bills of lading and other shipping documents related to the transport of enslaved people and goods (accessible through historical societies).

3. Records

- [New Orleans Records](#)
- [New Orleans Shipping Records](#)
- [The Montgomery Slave Trade](#)
- [Alabama Slavery Records](#)
- [Alabama Photos and Media–Slavery](#)
- [Washington DC Slavery and Emancipation](#)
- [Washington DC History of Slavery](#)
- **The Whitney Plantation Records** – Documents from the Whitney Plantation in Louisiana, including ledgers and accounts that detail slave labor and plantation economics. Available through their archives.
- **The Hermitage Plantation Records** – Records from Andrew Jackson's plantation that detail the economic contributions of enslaved people.
- [Hermann-Grima House New Orleans, List of Enslaved People](#)

4. Census Records

- [U.S. Federal Census of 1860](#) – Data showing the population of enslaved individuals in New Orleans, Montgomery, and Washington, D.C. (accessible via the National Archives).

5. Letters and Correspondence

- ["Letters of a Slave Owner"](#) – A collection of letters from plantation owners discussing economic matters related to their enslaved labor force (available in various historical archives).

- [Letters from the Freedmen's Bureau](#) – Correspondence documenting the transition from slavery to freedom and its economic impacts.
 - [Freedom Papers, New Orleans](#)
 - [Letters from Enslaved People](#): Correspondence between enslaved individuals and their families or allies that provides insight into their experiences and economic roles.
 - [Letters from Enslaved People](#)
 - **Plantation Owners' Letters**: Personal letters of plantation owners discussing the profitability and management of their enslaved workforce.
 - i. [Princeton and Slavery](#)
 - ii. [South Carolina](#)
- 6. Legal Documents**
- [Missouri Compromise \(1820\)](#) – Legislative documents discussing the regulation of slavery in new territories, impacting economic development in Southern cities.
 - [Fugitive Slave Act of 1793, 1850](#) – Legal documents outlining laws affecting the economy of slavery and its implications for commerce.
 - [Legal Records, Slavery and Freedom in Louisiana, Xavier University](#)
- 7. Visual Sources**
- **Photographs of Enslaved People** – Historical photographs from the 19th century (e.g., from the Library of Congress).
 - [Historical Markers Database](#)
- 8. Exhibitions and Museum Archives**
- ["Cotton Production in the South"](#) (Various maps) – Maps illustrating cotton production areas, which were heavily reliant on enslaved labor.
 - [The Legacy Museum, Equal Justice Initiative](#)
 - [New Orleans Virtual Tour, Including River Plantations](#)
 - [The Historic New Orleans Collection](#): Provides access to documents and artifacts from New Orleans' history.
 - [Slavery and the Emerging Global Economy, National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)
 - [King Cotton, National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)
 - [Domestic Slave Trade, National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)

Specific Secondary Sources

1. Articles

- **General**
 - i. [South-Overall](#)
 - ii. [Slavery Rerouted](#)
 - iii. [NYTimes](#)
 - iv. [Vox](#)
 - v. [Hidden Links Between Slavery and Wall Street](#)
- **Montgomery**

- i. [Permanent Wound–Montgomery AL](#)
 - ii. [Labor and Public Memory](#)
 - iii. [Slave Built Infrastructure](#)
 - iv. [Lecture by Dr. Dallas Hanbury–Slavery in Alabama](#)
 - v. [First White House of the Confederacy–Montgomery](#)
 - **New Orleans**
 - i. [EJI](#)
 - ii. [Domestic Slave Trade](#)
 - iii. [Before the War](#)
 - iv. [Purchased Lives](#)
 - **Washington DC**
 - i. [Complexities of Slavery in the Capital](#)
 - ii. [Slavery and Emancipation in the Nation’s Capital](#)
 - iii. [Ending Slavery in the Capital](#)
 - iv. [The Notorious Yellow House, Washington DC](#)
 - v. [DC’s Slave Trade Ended Here, Next to the Smithsonian](#)
 - vi. [Lafayette Square Was Once Bordered by Slave Pens, Washington Post](#)
- 2. **Documentaries, Podcasts, and Films**
 - ["The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross"](#) – A PBS series that covers the history of African Americans, including the economic ramifications of slavery.
 - [Sighting the Sights of the New Orleans Slave Trade](#)
- 3. **Other Resources**
 - [Georgetown Library Archives, Washington DC](#)