

UNIT 3**DOCUMENT BASED QUESTIONS**

Analyze the origins and development of slavery in colonial Georgia from 1750.

DOCUMENT A: Letter From Georgia Settlers To Trustees

2d, The Want of the Use of Negroes, with proper Limitations; which if granted, would both occasion great Numbers of white People to come here, and also render us capable to subsist ourselves, by raising Provisions upon our Lands, until we could make some Produce fit for Export, in some Measure to Ballance our Importation. We are very sensible of the Inconveniencies and Mischiefs that have already, and do daily arise from an 'unlimited Use of Negroes; but we are as sensible, that these may be prevented by a due Limitation, such as so many to each white Man, or so many to such a Quantity of Land, or in any other Manner which Your Honours shall think most proper.

Representation of Freeholders in Georgia to the Trustees, December 9, 1738. Library of Congress.

DOCUMENT B: Reply Letter From Trustees To Georgia Settlers

And the Trustees are the more confirmed in their opinion of the Unreasonableness of this Demand, that they have received Petitions from the Darien, and other Parts of the Province, representing the Inconvenience and Danger, which must arise to the good People of the Province from the Introduction of Negroes. And as the Trustees themselves are fully convinced, that besides the Hazard attending that Introduction, it would destroy all Industry among the white Inhabitants; and that by giving them a Power to alien their Lands [that is, to sell the land], the Colony would soon be too like its Neighbours, void of white Inhabitants, filled with Blacks, and reduced to be the precarious Property of a Few, equally exposed to Domestick Treachery, and Foreign Invasion; and therefore the Trustees cannot be supposed to be in any Disposition of granting this Request; and if they have not before this signified their Dislike of it, this Delay is to be imputed to no other Motives, but the Hopes they had conceived, that Time and Experience would bring the Complainants to a better Mind.

The Georgia Trustees Respond to the Freeholders' Representation, June 20, 1739. Library of Congress.

DOCUMENT C: Explanation Of Policy From Georgia Trustees

It was likewise apprehended, that if the Persons who should go over to Georgia at their own Expence, should be permitted the use of Negroes, it would dispirit and ruin the Poor Planters who could not get them, and who by their Numbers were designed to be the strength of the Province; it would make them Clamorous [loud outcry] to have Negroes given them, and on the Refusal would drive them from the Province, or at least make them negligent [failing to take proper care] of their Plantations, where they would be unwilling, nay would certainly disdain [feel disrespect towards], to work like Negroes; and would rather let themselves out to wealthy Planters as Overseers of their Negroes.

The Georgia Trustees Justify Their Policies, 1742. Library of Congress.

UNIT 3**DBQs CONTINUED****Analyze the origins and development of slavery in colonial Georgia to 1750.**DOCUMENT D: Georgia Settlers' Account Of Early Colonial Life

The Falling of Timber was a Task very unequal to the Strength and Constitution of white Servants; and the Hoeing the Ground, they being exposed to the . . . Heat of the Sun . . . it is well known, that this Labour is one of the hardest upon the Negroes, even tho' their Constitutions are much stronger than white People, and the Heat no Way disagreeable nor hurtful to them; but in us it created inflammatory Fevers of various kinds . . . wasting and tormenting Fluxes, most excruciating Cholicks, and Dry-Belly-Achs . . . and a long Train of painful and lingering, nervous Distempers.

A True and Historical Narrative of the Colony of Georgia, Settlers' Grievances, 1741. Library of Congress.

DOCUMENT E: Fifth Generation Account Of The Stono Rebellion

How it all start? Dat what I ask but nobody ever tell me how 100 slaves between de Combahee and Edisto rivers come to meet in de woods not far from de Stono River [in South Carolina] on September 9, 1739. And how they elect a leader, my kinsman, Cato, and late dat day march to Stono town, break in a warehouse, kill two white men in charge, and take all de guns and ammunition they wants. But they do it. Wid dis start, they turn south and march on.

George Cato, Great-Great Grandson of Stono Rebellion Leader, Recalls the 1739 Rebellion (1937). Mark M. Smith, ed., Stono: Documenting and Interpreting a Southern Slave Revolt (University of South Carolina Press, 2005), 55.

DOCUMENT F: Law Permitting Slavery In Georgia

[T]he Importation and Use of Black Slaves or Negroes in the said Colony was absolutely prohibited and forbid under the Penalty therein mentioned AND WHEREAS at the time of passing the said Act the said Colony of Georgia being in its Infancy the Introduction of Black Slaves or Negroes would have been of dangerous Consequence but at present it may be a Benefit to the said Colony and a Convenience and Encouragement to the Inhabitants thereof to permit the Importation and Use of them into the said Colony under proper Restrictions and Regulations without Danger to the said Colony. . .

Repeal of the Prohibition on Slavery in Georgia, 1750.

DOCUMENT G: Letter From Early Colonial Georgia Settler

“. . . [A]s we were going down the river, we met a trading boat going to Fort Augusta. The people on board her told us the Negroes in Carolina had raised up in arms and killed about forty white people. We went to the Uchee Town and from thence to Fort Prince Georgia, where we found thirty men come from Purysburg to strengthen the fort.”

“Patrick Mackay letter September 17, 1739” in Ed Cashin, Setting Out to Begin a New World: Colonial Georgia (Savannah: Beehive Press, 1995), 83.

UNIT 3**DBQs CONTINUED**

Analyze the origins and development of slavery in colonial Georgia from 1750.

DOCUMENT H: Georgia Slave Code

- Slaves refusing to be examined by any White Person may be corrected and if they resist may be lawfully killed—
- Persons maimed or wounded in taking runaway Slaves to be rewarded by the General Assembly—
- Slaves who shall attempt to raise an Insurrection or to entice other Slaves to run away and leave this Province to suffer Death.
- Persons who shall put any Slave to Work on Sunday shall forfeit Ten Shillgs. Sterling—
- Retailers of strong Liquors not to give or Sell any to Negroes without their owners Consent.
- Persons living without the Limits of Savannah may give a Licence to their Slaves to sell or barter in Savannah expressing the Quantity and Quality of goods in such Licence.
- Persons killing a Slave in a sudden Heat of passion &c. [et cetera] to forfeit £50.
- And Persons Exercising any cruelty towards them to forfeit £10.
- Owners of Slaves refusing to provide them with sufficient Clothing and Food to forfeit not exceeding £3.
- If any Slave shall be cruelly used contrary to the true intent of this Act when no white person is present the Owner or person having charge of such Slave shall be deemed Guilty of the Offence unless he can prove to the contrary.
- Not more than 7 Men Slaves to travel together on the high Roads without a white person with them. . .
- Slaves not to labour more than 16 Hours in 24 and persons offending to forfeit not exceeding £3.
- Slaves not to be taught to write and persons offending to forfeit £15.

Georgia Slave Code, 1755.

DOCUMENT I: Treaty With Creek Indians

Sixthly, and we the Head Men, for ourselves and People do promise to apprehend and secure any Negro or other slave which shall runaway from any of the English Settlements to our Nation and to carry them either to this Town or Savannah or Pallachuckla Garrison and there deliver him up to the Commander of such Garrison and to be paid by him four Blankets or two Guns or the value thereof in other goods, provided such runaway Negro or other slave shall be taken by us or any of our People on the further side of Ocony River, and in case such Negro or runaway Slave shall be taken on the hither side of the said River and delivered to the Commander as aforesaid, then we understand the pay to be one Gun or the value thereof; and in case we or our people should kill any such slave for resistance or running away from us in apprehending him then we are to be paid one Blanket for his head by any Trader we shall carry such slave's head unto.

Oglethorpe's Treaty with the Lower Creek Indians, 1755.

UNIT 3

DBQs CONTINUED

Analyze the origins and development of slavery in colonial Georgia to 1750.

DOCUMENT J: Letter From South Carolina Governor To English Council

[T]he King of Spain's Order at St. Augustine, declaring freedom to all Negroes who should Desert hither from the British Colonies; since which several parties have deserted and are there openly received and protected; many attempts of others have been discovered and prevented notwithstanding which on the Ninth of September last at night a Great number of Negroes arose in rebellion, broke open a store where they got arms killed twenty one White Persons and were marching in a daring manner out of the Province killing all they met and burning the Houses on the Road through which they passed. . .

Letter from South Carolina Governor William Bull to the Royal Council, 5 October 1739. South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.

DOCUMENT K: Map Of Georgia And Carolina



A Map of British and French Settlements in 1755. Library of Congress.

DOCUMENT L: Map Of Charleston, South Carolina Area



“Stono R.’ and ‘CharlesTown,’ in A compleat description of the province of [South] Carolina,” map by Edward Crisp, 1711. Library of Congress.