

Name _____

Social Studies
Chapter 10 Lesson 2 Study Guide
Resisting Slavery

The Dred Scott Decision

- Dred Scott was the slave of an army doctor
- He traveled state to state with his owner
- His owner died
- Scott went to court to try to win his freedom because he had been living in free states (both Illinois and Wisconsin)
- The Supreme Court told him he was a piece of property and had no rights or privileges

Challenging Slavery

- Many groups of people resisted slavery: free African Americans, enslaved African Americans, and white abolitionists (people who wanted to do away with slavery)
- An enslaved man named Nat Turner led a rebellion that took the lives of many planters and enslaved people
- Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave who wrote articles and gave speeches to try to abolish slavery
- Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin* that turned more people in the North against slavery because it informed people of what slavery was really like
- At the 1848 Seneca Falls women's rights convention, a document was written that called for equality for ALL Americans
- William Lloyd Garrison, a white Northerner started the American Anti-Slavery Society.

A system of secret escape routes that led escaped slaves to free lands was established. It was named the Underground Railroad. It was very dangerous work to help the slaves. Helpers were called conductors. They worked mostly at night which lessened the chance of being seen. People who were caught helping slaves were sometimes beaten or killed. Conductors built secret rooms in their homes and barns. Wagons with false bottoms were built to transport the escaped slaves. The slaves were often disguised. Small children were given medicine to make them sleep so they wouldn't make noise the slave catchers might hear. Secret roads and paths were made and used.

Slavery took away a person's rights. Families were often separated. Cruel masters and overseers sometimes beat the slaves or didn't give them enough food, clothing or water. Slaves worked from sun-up to sun-down six or seven days a week and received no pay. Many of their cabins didn't provide a shelter from the cold nights. Slaves who picked crops had to pick a certain amount each day or they were punished. If they had a very good day and picked over that amount, they were expected to get the larger amount every day, or they were punished. They spent long hot days in the sun picking the crops. Slaves were not allowed to read or write. They could not travel off the plantation without written permission. House slaves were whipped for not knowing how to do something like dust the furniture. Many house slaves took care of the babies and small children. If the babies cried during the night and woke the mistress or master, the slave could be whipped.