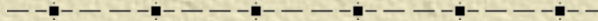
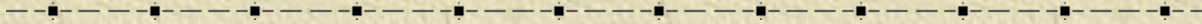


Slavery & The Slave Trade



The Race Card Project

Michele Norris, NPR

To “crystallize people’s feelings about race and identity” with the hope that “condensing their thoughts might open the spigot.”

www.theracecardproject.com

Her findings

“The most common words are not lofty or majestic...The words that surface over and over again speak to personal encounters...”

“The events that define our experience with race are often small, unpredictable moments that leave a big impression.”

Samples

- ✦ “Drinking from the wrong fountain: Colored”
- ✦ “She volunteered to sit by me”
- ✦ “Change on counter, not in hand.”
- ✦ “My great, great grandfather owned slaves.”
- ✦ “I see the scared in you.”
- ✦ “I’ m only Asian when it’ s convenient.”
- ✦ “Too black for black men’ s love.”
- ✦ “Passing. No one knows I’ m native.”

Lecture Outline

I. The Institution of Slavery

A. Overview

B. Distinctive features of Southern slavery

C. Pro-Slavery & Anti-Slavery arguments

II. The Slave Trade

A. Mercantilism

B. The Triangular/Transatlantic Trade

C. The Middle Passage

Growth of African American Population

1820	1.77 million	13% free
1830	2.33 million	14% free
1840	2.87 million	13% free
1850	3.69 million	12% free
1860	4.44 million	11% free

Comparison of Slavery in the Americas

North America	Latin America
No Legal Protection	
Cruel Punishments	
Slaves were sold apart	
“Better” diet, housing, medical care	Had to produce their own food, higher death rates, low proportion of women.
Half of all slaves worked on plantations with 20 or fewer slaves.	Up to 500 slaves on a plantation.
Slave owners lived on plantation	Absentee ownership common.
Two-category system of racial categorization	Wide range of racial gradations (Spanish)
Slavery depended on the loyalty of non slaveholding whites. 3/4 owned no slaves	

“King Cotton”

Eli Whitney's Cotton
Gin (1793)
“Peculiar Institution”



Vocabulary

✦ Gradual Emancipation

✦ Manumission

✦ Importation of slaves

◆ Atlantic Slave trade

✦ (Domestic) Slave trade

✦ Abolition

How did slavery differ from indentured servitude?

Indentured Servitude	Slavery
Contracted Time Period	For life/freedom was not contractual.
Could be bought, sold, or leased.	→
Could be punished by whipping.	→
Were allowed to own property.	Not property owners.

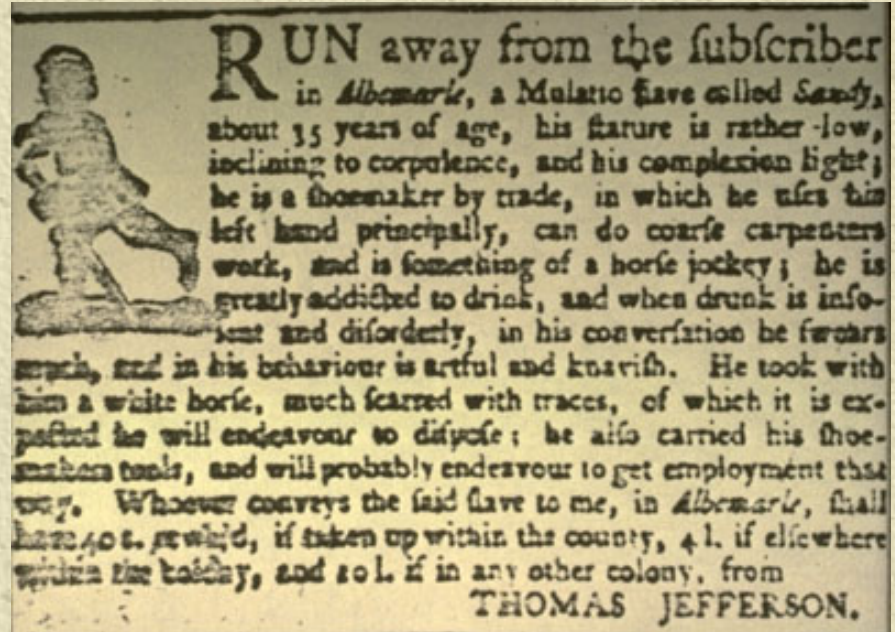
The Institution of Slavery

✦ Anti-Slavery Arguments

✦ Pro-Slavery Arguments

Slave Resistance: Passive and Active Resistance

- ✦ Breaking tools
- ✦ Faking illness
- ✦ Staging slowdowns
- ✦ Committing acts of arson and sabotage
- ✦ Running Away
- ✦ Underground Railroad



Slave Exports and Profits

- ✦ Early 18th Century - 36,000 per year
- ✦ During 1780's - 80,000 per year
- ✦ Between 1740-1810 - 60,000 captives/year on average.
- ✦ 17th Century - slave sold in the Americas for about \$150
- ✦ Slave trade illegal in Britain in 1807, US 1808, France 1831, Spain 1834.
- ✦ Once declared illegal prices went much higher. 1850s prime field hand \$1200 - \$1500



Why was Africa vulnerable to the Slave Trade?

- ✦ Political Fragmentation
- ✦ Sailing Routes
- ✦ Availability of People (high birth rate)
- ✦ Civilizations and Skills (metalworking, farming, herding)
- ✦ No diplomatic repercussions.



Geography of Slavery

- ✦ Enslaved Africans mostly came from the area stretching from the Senegal River in Africa to Angola.
- ✦ Europeans divided the area into five regions:
 - ◆ Upper Guinea Coast
 - ◆ Ivory Coast
 - ◆ Lower Guinea Coast
 - ◆ Gabon
 - ◆ Angola



Map 11. West Africa in the Era of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, showing the eight principal regions of activity and ports of embarkation, based on David Eltis, Stephen D. Behrendt, David Richardson, and Herbert Klein, eds., *The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: A Database on CD-ROM* (Cambridge, 1999). Map drawn by Rebecca Warren.

Two main patterns of Triangular Trade

✦ Rum from New
England to West
Africa

✦ Slaves to sugar islands

✦ Molasses home to the
New England
distilleries

✦ Manufactured goods
from England to
Africa

✦ Goods exchanged for
slaves taken to West
Indies. Profits used to
purchase sugar (and
other goods) for
England.

Middle Passage 1600 - 1850's

The Capture

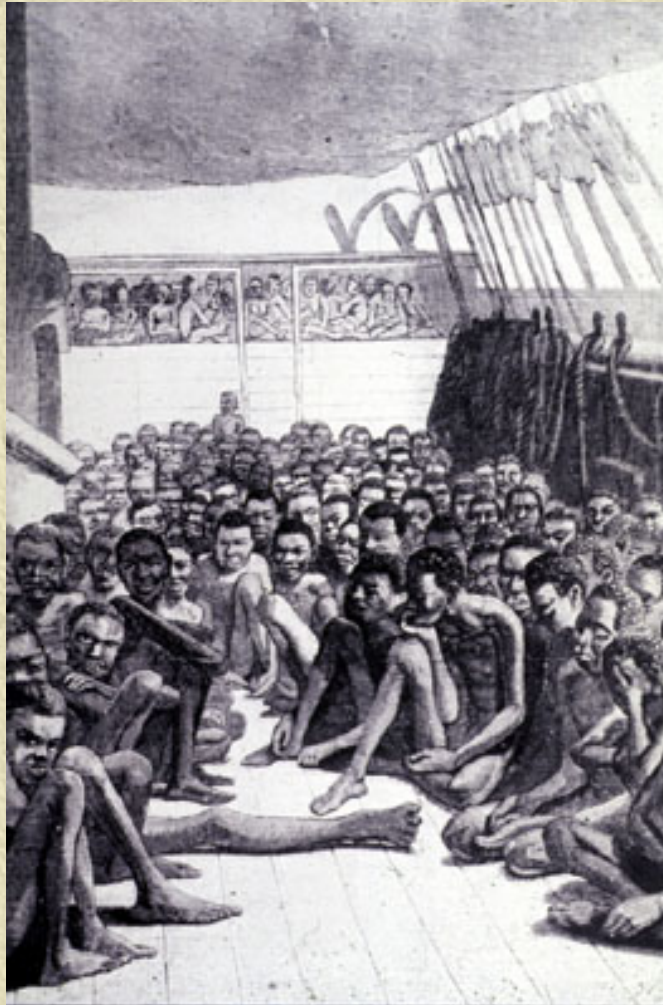


- ✦ Approx. 60 forts build along the west coast of Africa.
- ✦ Walked in slave caravans to the forts some 1000 miles away.
- ✦ Selected by the Europeans and branded.
- ✦ One half survived the death march.
- ✦ Place in underground dungeons until they were boarded on ships.

Middle Passage Statistics

- ✦ 10-16 million Africans forcibly transported across the Atlantic from 1500-1900.
- ✦ 2 million died during the Middle Passage (10-15%)
- ✦ Another 15-30% died during the march to the coast.
- ✦ For every 100 slaves that reached the New World, another 40 died in Africa or during the Middle Passage.

Middle Passage



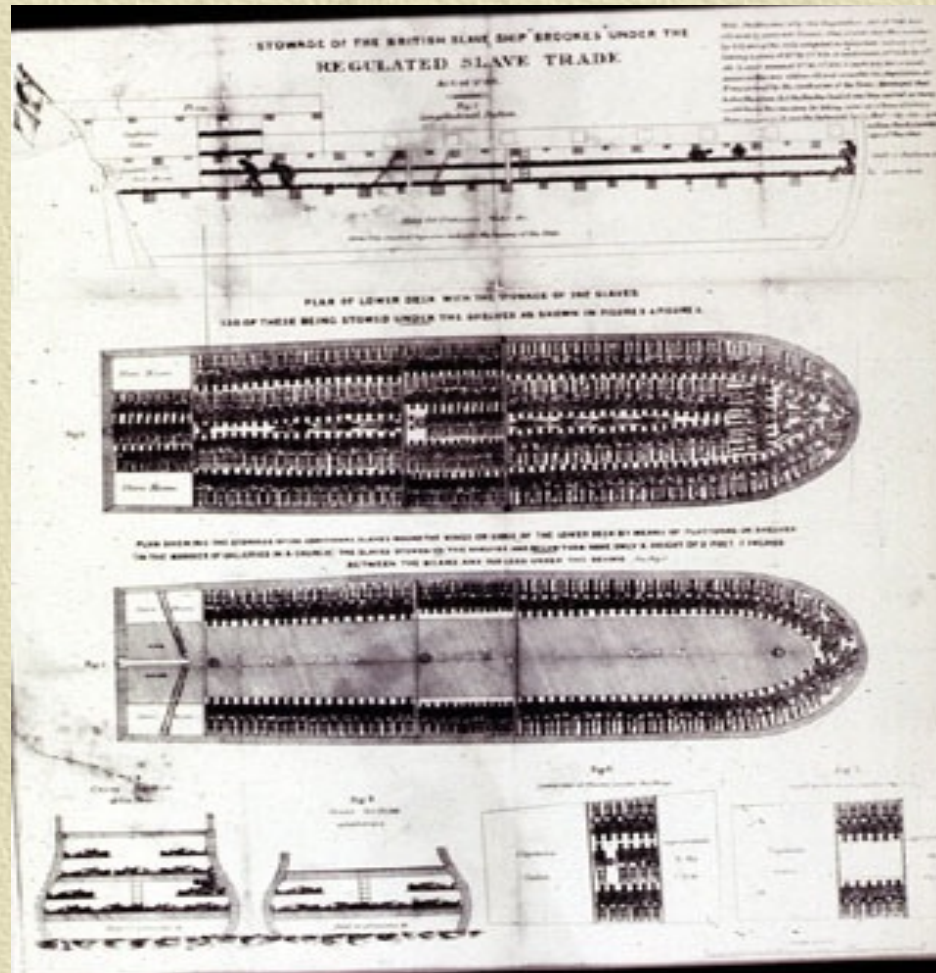
- ✦ Tight packing - belly to back, chained in twos, wrist to ankle (660+), naked.
- ✦ Loose packing - shoulder to shoulder chained wrist to wrist or ankle to ankle.
- ✦ Men and woman separated (men placed towards bow, women toward stern).
- ✦ Fed once or twice a day and brought on deck for limited times.

Middle Passage

Conditions on Board the Ship

- ✦ Slaves chained together and crammed into spaces sometimes less than five feet high.
- ✦ Slavers packed three or four hundred Africans into the ship cargo holds.
- ✦ Little ventilation, human waste, horrific odors. Unclean.

British Slave Ship



Middle Passage

- ✦ Journey lasted 6-8 weeks.
- ✦ Due to high mortality rate, cargo was insured (reimbursed for drowning accidents but not for deaths from disease or sickness)
- ✦ Common to dump your cargo for sickness or food shortages.
- ✦ Slave mutinies on board ships were common (1 out of every 10 voyages across the Atlantic experience a revolt).
- ✦ Covert resistance (attempted suicide, jumped overboard, refusal to eat).

The Slave Trade Ends

In the States...

- slave trade ends/gradual emancipation & manumission in northern states

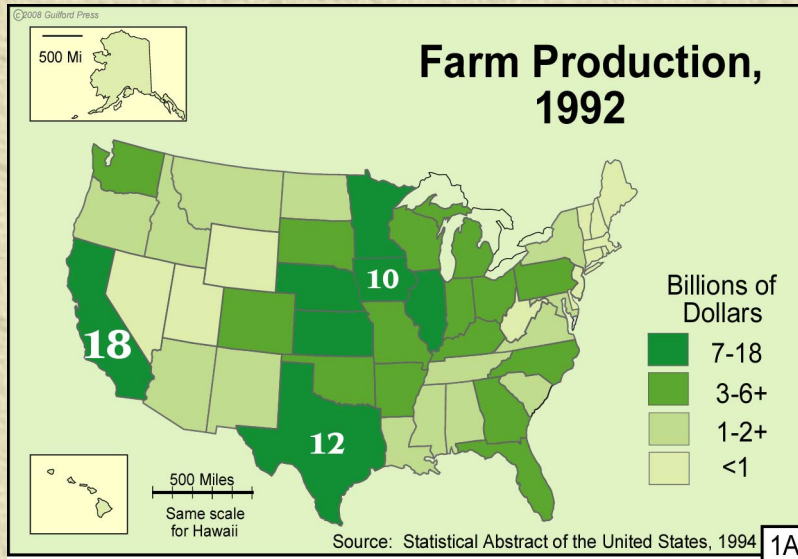
In the U.S. as a Nation... 1808

Analyzing Primary Source Documents

Work in groups of 3:

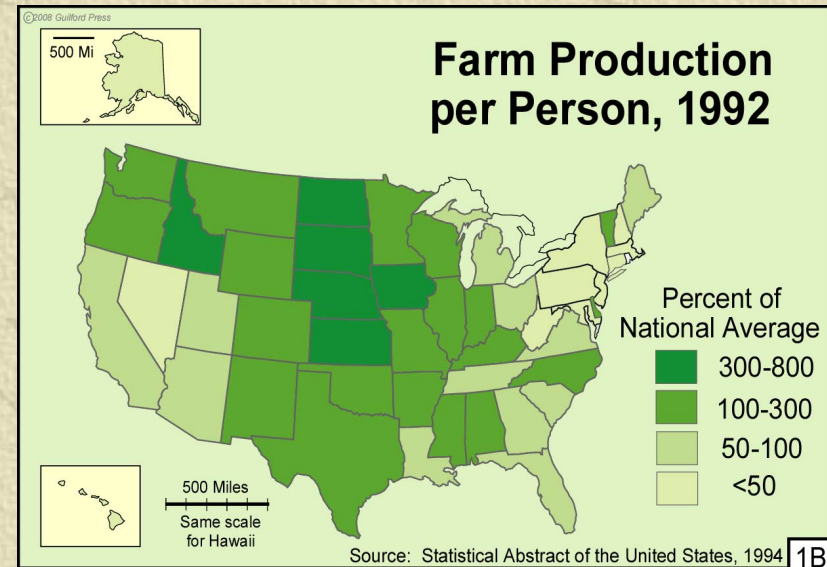
- ✦ For Cartoon & Poster use N.A.R.A. on back & answer questions
- ✦ For Solomon Northup, create 6 Bloom questions on template
- ✦ For “The Anti-Slavery Alphabet,” create 4 Depth of Knowledge questions & 1 Geography-based activity

Chloropleth Maps

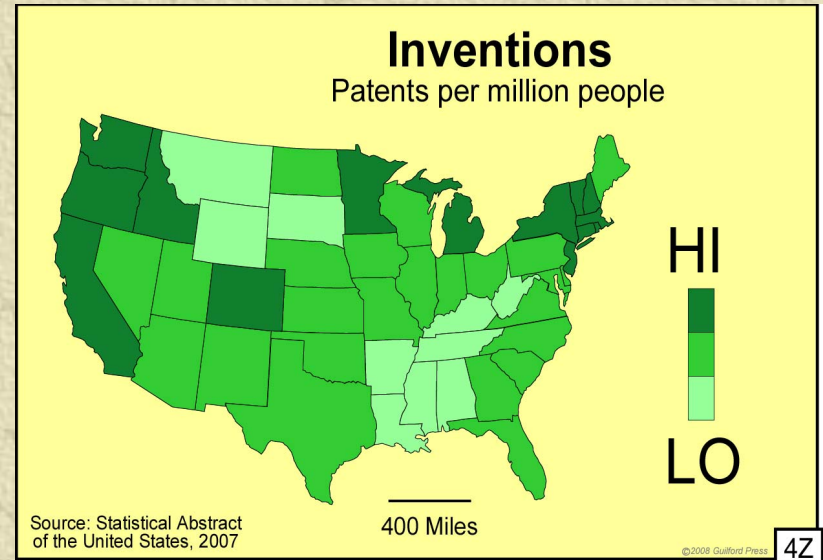
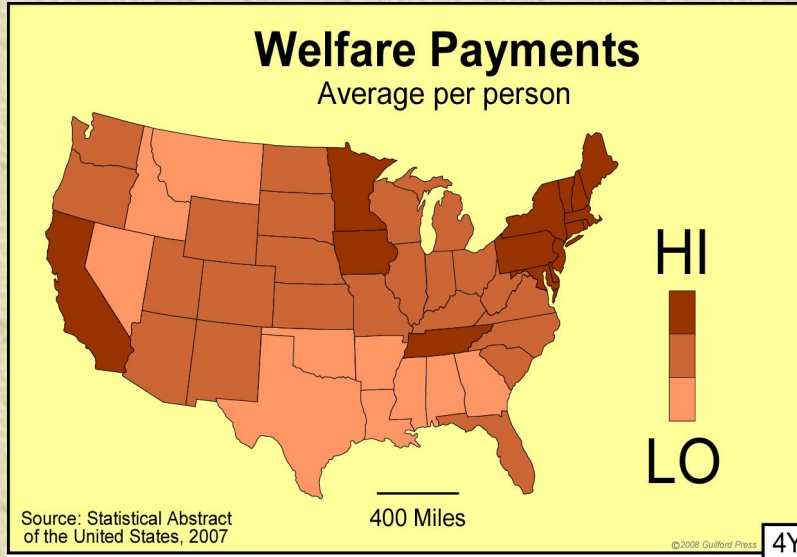


Simple count
(bad example)

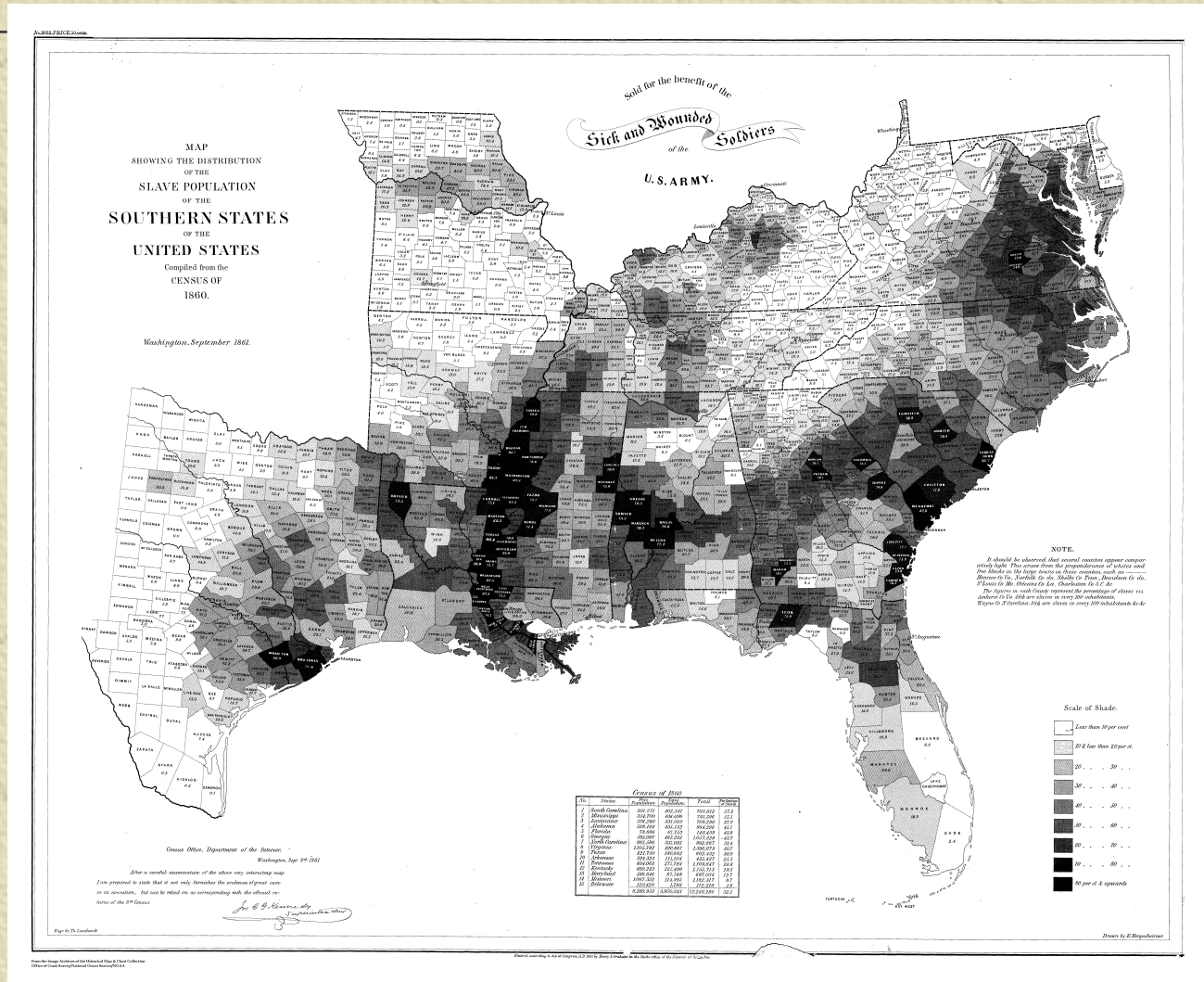
Ratio data
(good example)



Chloropleth Maps



Choropleth map showing the distribution of the slave population Henry S. Graham (1861)



Distribution of Enslaved African Americans, 1850

Look at Map #1:

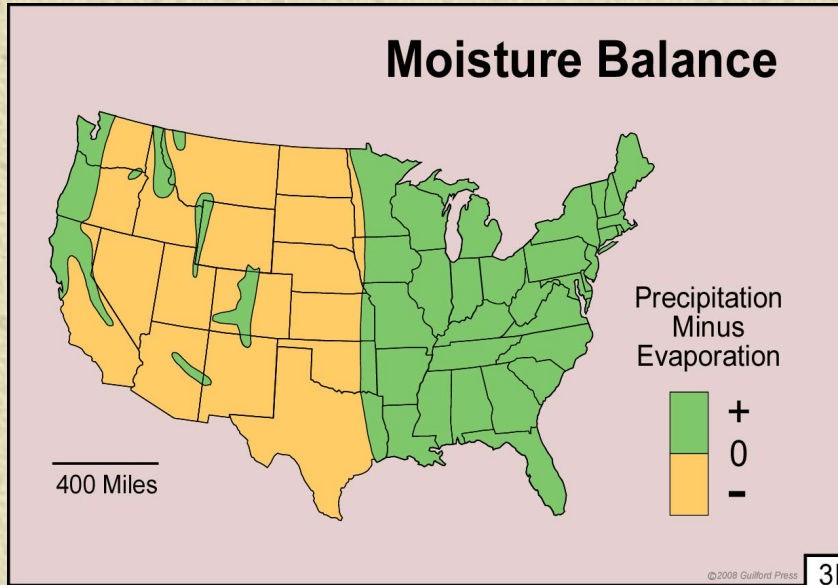
- What does this map depict?
- What states feature the highest # of slaves?
- Is this map useful to consider the distribution of the slave population?
- Are there any ways this map is limited?

Distribution of Enslaved African Americans, 1850

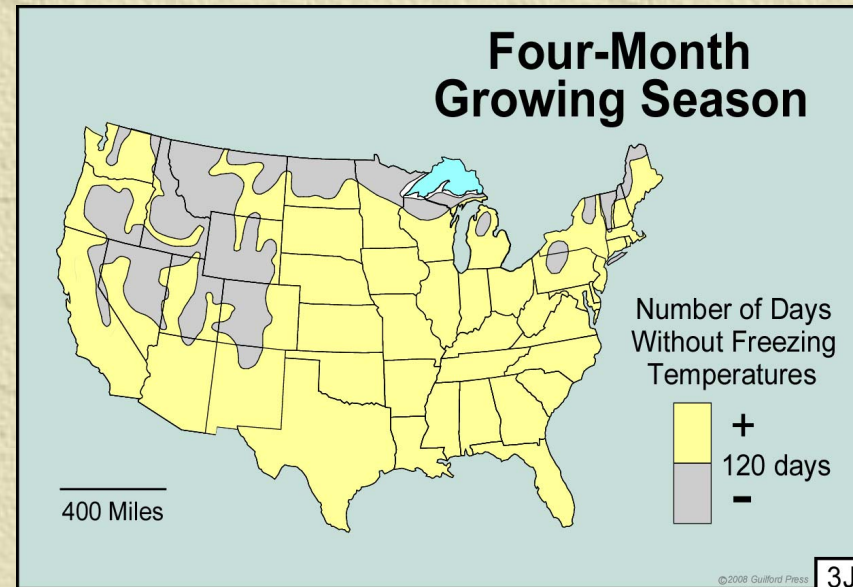
Look at Map #2:

- How does this map differ?
- What advantages does this map offer?
- How does this map change your conclusions about where slavery was most significant?

Isoline Maps

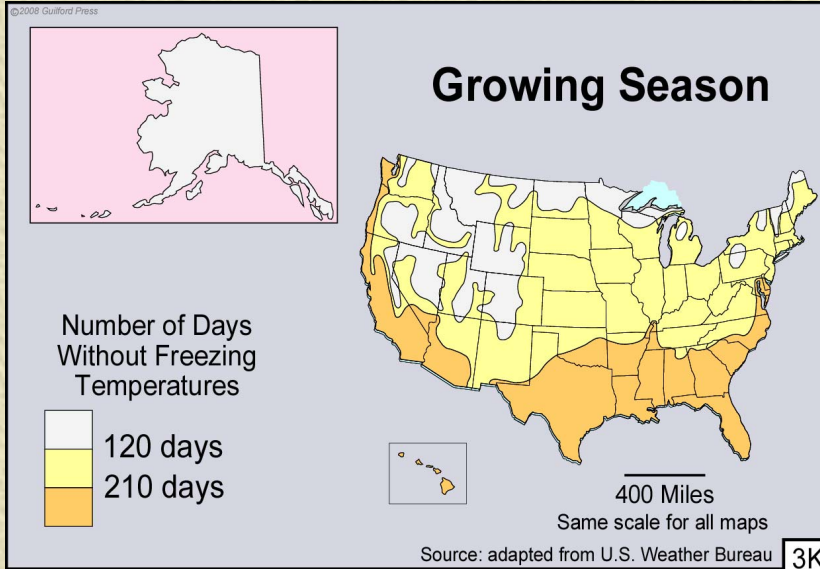


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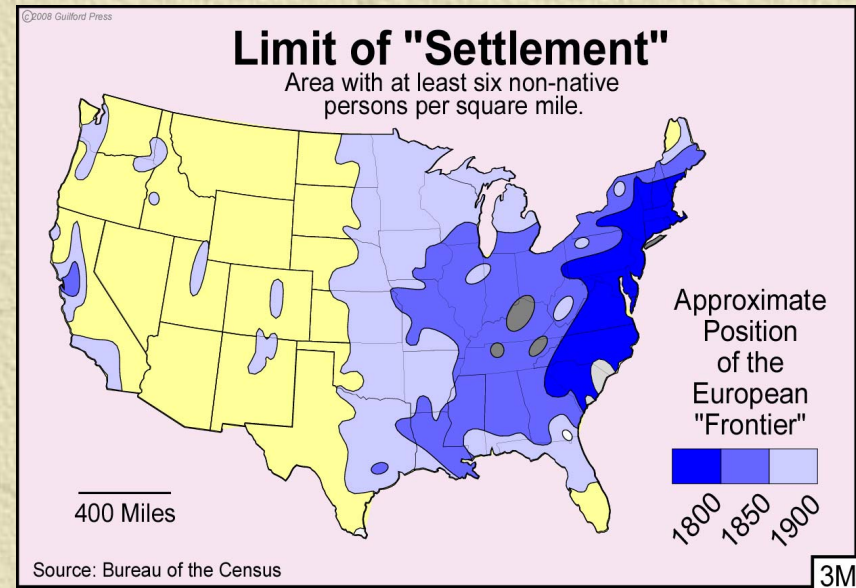


3J

Isoline Maps



3K



3M

Why did the shaded states choose to secede?

