

Grade 6

Comparing the Existence of Slavery from Ancient History through the Present Day

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Essential questions:

- Who tells the story? History is written by the victors.
- Why has slavery always existed?
- Who were the enslaved?

Since I will be teaching Ancient World History in rural North Carolina, my students are somewhat familiar with southern (plantation) slavery. I thought it would be interesting to introduce and compare the existence of slavery in ancient times, early New England, and the present day. I want them to recognize that slavery has existed throughout the world, and in various forms, for thousands of years (not just in the plantation south).

Sources:

- Bible verses
- Primary artifacts (writings, art, ...)
- Secondary artifacts (newspaper articles, histories, videos...)
 - from ancient Greece/Rome/Egypt/Africa/China/Mesoamerica
 - Caribbean
 - early New England
 - southern states
 - War time slavery
 - Kony (Uganda)
 - Sex trafficking

Forms of slavery:

- Conquered peoples
- Indentured servants
- Purchased slaves
- Prisoners
- Lower classes (inferior/different/ignorant/poor...)

- Infidels and non-believers

As we study each of the ancient societies, I plan on having my students explore and discuss the comparisons to both the US and North Carolina history they have previously studied. We can then research more current history and current events to see that slavery does still exist. Why? How? Where? Who?

Will it ever cease to exist? Why/why not?