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## Enslaved People in the United States

There was a period of time in the history of the United States when slavery was legal. As hard as it is to believe, until the end of the Civil War in the 1860s, it was legal in southern states to enslave black African Americans and force them to work on southern plantations. These people endured harsh treatment, inhuman living conditions, and endless amounts of grueling labor for the benefit of the plantation owner and his family.

Enslaved people had to survive in unlivable cabins. They had dirt floors that had turned to mud from the leaky roofs they had. They put up cloth to have some privacy for themselves. They also made little holes on the side of the cabins to make windows, but if it was rainy or there was snow the cold breeze would waosh in. There were dozens of people living in one cabin so, it was very crowded. They had a small fire place in the middle of the cabin for heat.

Enslaved people were treated really bad. They could be sent to a mini jail for making the owner of the plantation mad. They had no rights or freedom. Moms and dads got separated from their kids or loved ones. They could also be sold for money. All the enslaved people had constant fear because the punishment that would happen to them. If the enslaved people failed to escape they will get a harsh punishment like whipping them or, cutting off the front of their feet to prevent them to run away.

Domestic workers are enslaved people that work in the houses for the owner. They always serve the owner breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They didn't have much physically work than the slaves out in the field. They still work day and night. They had

been treated better than the people in the field. They had better clothing and had better food to eat.

Field work was the hardest of them all. Slaves that worked in the field stayed up day and night. Even Children up to age 7 or 8 worked in the field also. They had to plant cotton, tobacco and, sugarcane. If the slaves didn't work hard enough they would be whipped or get a severe punishment. They also had to work in the rain, snow, freezing or hot temperatures. They had to pick all the crops by hand.

In 1865 after the civil war was fought and the northern union won slavery was made illegal. Just because slavery was illegal white and, colored skin was still separated from each other.