

WHITNEY PLANTATION

Module Three:

Danger

Video Included:

- What was punishment? How was it used as a form of control?

Primary Resources Included:

Part 1

- Whipping of a Fugitive Slave, French West Indies, 1840s
- Wilson Chinn, a branded slave from Louisiana

PART ONE

Video– What was punishment? How was it used as a form of control?

1. Where is this video filmed? _____ Why is this an important spot?
2. What is being described?
3. What stands out to you the most about what is being said?

Primary Sources:

1. What are these two documents? What is being depicted? Do you recognize one of these images from the video?
2. What type of image do these two documents depict of punishment on a plantation?
3. What emotions and feelings do you see expressed on the faces of people in these two pictures?

Narratives: For each of following excerpts, connect the story which is being told to either the videos from the Whitney Plantation, or to one of the primary sources. These are the voices of enslaved workers who were interviewed in the 1930's, and the people who transcribed their words tried to capture their pronunciation as well as they could.

What was punishment and how was it used as a form of control?

“He had a iron band, he’d rivet to go around the ankle, an’ he had a iron band to go around the neck, with a piece o’ iron standin’ up in de front, de back and each side, yo’ had to hold yo’ head jes’ so, an’ yo’ couldn’t lay down, an’ yo’ had to pad that iron band, ‘cause it was so heavy it would cut yo’ neck,...

– Albert Patterson

“No suh, boss I can’t read and write. When I were broug up ef’n my boss man kotch me wit a pencil or paper it was 25 lashes.”

– John McDonald

1. What are the connections between these two narratives and the primary sources?

Video Connections:

Primary Source Connections:

2. Why would Mr. McDonald’s boss decree such harsh punishment for being caught with pencil or paper?

3. How is this a form of control?

PRIMARY RESOURCES

PART ONE

Title: Whipping of a Fugitive Slave, French West Indies, 1840s

Description: Recognize the image from the video? Lying on his stomach, the victim's hands and legs are tied to stakes while he is being whipped by the black overseer (commander); next to one of his legs is the iron spiked collar with attached chain, which was often attached to the neck of captured fugitive slaves. Other slaves and the planter and his family witness the scene.



Photo Courtesy: Slaveryimages.org

Title: Wilson Chinn, a branded slave from Louisiana – Also exhibiting instruments of torture used to punish slaves. ca. 1863.

Description: Image of enslaved man Wilson Chinn, branded on the head by his master. Instruments of bondage around his neck and on his legs.

*Purchased in New Orleans Dec 1863
My husband Keim*

*1863
Proceeds intended for the colored people in New York
for the purchase of the land*

Policy of Civil War

WILSON CHINN, a Branded Slave from Louisiana.
Also exhibiting Instruments of Torture
used to punish Slaves.

Photographed by KIMBALL, 477 Broadway, N. Y

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by
 Geo. H. HARRIS, in the Clerk's Office of the United States for
 the Southern District of New-York.

Photo Courtesy: Library of Congress