

## Lesson –Looking at Living Conditions of Plantation Slave Children in USA

### Setting and context

This lesson would be in as series of lessons based on the life of slave children on US plantations.

The lesson is aimed at a group of 14-17 year old students with severe learning and physical needs. The group would consist of 8 students and 1 teacher and 2 teaching assistants. The timing of the lesson and its place within the series of lesson plans would very much depend on the progress made by the class

### Slavery Lesson SLD and MLD Students

Lesson	Title	Details
1	What is a slave?	Using details of Pictures of slaves on the white board or paper copies discuss with the class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The basic concepts of freedom and slavery</li><li>• That in the main slaves were from Africa were transported on ships across the Atlantic</li><li>• That in general on plantations in the USA Slaves were black and the slave owners were white</li></ul> The amount of detail will depend on the ability of the students within a given session
2	Build a slave cabin in the classroom	Recreation of a Slave Cabin in the Classroom using a Garden Gazebo With students help a replica of a slave cabin will be built in the classroom from a gazebo covered in cardboard and wood print paper. The “Cabin” will contain a table and benches made very basically from planks of wood and bricks . A replica fireplace will have been made from cardboard - See detailed instructions

3	Make a slave doll	Making a fabric slave doll similar to example found in a slave cabin wall in North Carolina USA-See detailed instructions
4	What would we see in slave cabins and slave owners homes?	Cut and stick activity based upon sorting pictures of items that would have been found in slave cabins and slave owners houses
5	Plenary	<p><b>Plenary</b> – With the help of adults pupils report back on their activities and show results to rest of the group</p> <p>At the end of the session students are given tea/coffee and toast as part of the social skills curriculum. For this session students split into two groups one groups one group sits in the slave cabin the other group sits at a table with a cloth . Food and drink is served alternatively on plates and cups/saucers or in jam jars and newspaper. Food/drink goes to which table slave or master? pupils are asked which</p>

## Recreation of a Slave Cabin in the Classroom using a Garden Gazebo



(1)

The collapsible garden gazebo which can be bought cheaply, can easily be altered to resemble a slave cabin. The shape is very similar to the picture of slave cabins at “The Hermitage” Plantation shown above.

We made our slave cabin as follows:

1. Assemble the gazebo as instructed. Using plastic ties attach the gazebo to tables or other objects to stop it moving.
  2. Cover 3 sides of the gazebo with cardboard (third side left open to carry in anything you may need)
  3. Cut holes in front side for doors windows etc (see picture of Heritage cabins above)
  4. Paint cardboard with white emulsion paint or leave natural cardboard colour
  5. Using a large cardboard box paint a fireplace and put inside the cabin
  6. Spread straw on the floor
  7. Use wooden stools etc and planks of wood to make simple tables
  8. Put in simple wooden chairs from around school
- The “cabin” can be used as a museum to show other classes what living conditions for slaves were like . pupils to act as tour guides etc
  - The pupils/students can use the “cabin” to work in (although it may be a little inside)
  - Eat meals and snacks in the” cabin” based on the foods slaves may have eaten

- Use the “cabin “ for role play and drama. Students could use old mens shirts as costumes

Making a Fabric Slave Doll Similar to Example Found in a Slave Cabin Wall in North Carolina USA



(2)

*Homemade doll found in the wall of a slave cabin at Horton Grove which is part of Stagville Plantation, Durham.*

1. Ask students to collect some old clothes from home (plain colours are best)
2. Select a plain coloured garment and fold into two
3. On the doubled fabric draw a rough outline of the shape of the doll including arms.(remember that the neck will be drawn in using a piece of fabric)
4. Using fabric glue (or sew simply) attach the two parts together leaving the bottom edges open
5. Using fabric crayons or felt tips draw a face onto the doll.
6. Stuff it with the off cuts of fabric
7. Glue or sew the bottom edge
8. Use a small piece of fabric or ribbon to tie in to make a neck

The finished product could:

- Be used as part of the class museum
- It will illustrate that slaves had little or no money and children's toys were made out of waste materials.
- Be compared with modern day toys

Below are the details of a whiteboard or a cut and stick activity based upon the contrast in life style between slaves and slave owners:

## Found in Slave cabins and Slave Owners Houses( 3)



## Items found in a Slave Cabin



(4)

## Items Found in a Slave Owners House



## **Picture Credits**

**1 “Garden Gazebo” image reference 2008 as shown on**

**<http://www.hotukdeals.com/deals/gazebo-argos>.**

**2 ”Slave Doll” as shown on**

**<http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/.../session1.htm>**

**3. “Images from the Horton Grove Estate “ as shown on**

**<http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org>**

**4.”Ex- slaves outside a cabin as shown on**

**<http://kidport.com/...civilwar/images/Slaves.jpg>**

**5.”Saint Nicholas Abbey”as shown on**

**<http://barbadosholidays.org.uk/taxonomy/term/1>**