

Ch. 16 History Guide

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. You must use complete sentences.

1. To what extent were cotton production and slavery more a burden to the South than a benefit? Use specific political, economic, and social arguments to support your argument.
2. Why was the proposal for colonizing blacks back to Africa attractive to many whites, even as late as the onset of the Civil War? Why was the proposal for colonizing blacks back to Africa racist and highly discriminatory by many American blacks? Do you agree with this assessment that this proposal was underpinned by racism by whites against blacks?
3. To what extent were abolitionists extremists when they undertook to abolish slavery? How did the goals, strategies, and tactics of abolitionists change before the onset of the Civil War?
4. What would be your view on slavery if you were a typical
 - a. planter aristocrat?
 - b. small slaveowner in the South for farming and domestic tasks?
 - c. nonslaveowning white yeoman farmer in the South?
 - d. mountain, pioneer westerner?
 - e. free black living in the North?
5. To what extent did the "Gag Resolution" passed by the House of Representatives in 1836 symbolize the threat that slavery posed for all Americans, North and South?
6. Assess the validity of the following statement, "Slaves were better off than both wage earners in northern industry and free blacks back in Africa." Do you agree? Why or why not?
7. Elaborate on the text authors' comment that with the invention of the cotton gin, "the slave [was] ... chained to the gin and the planter to the slave."
8. How did the strategies and tactics of some of the radical abolitionists hasten the onset of the Civil War? Defend or attack the legitimacy and wisdom of some of the strategies and tactics of the radical abolitionists.
9. It has been argued that both Britain and the North were inextricably tied to the South with "cotton threads." Explain and defend or attack the legitimacy of this assertion.
10. Describe the arguments and the ways in which the South reacted to antislavery arguments after the 1830s.