

Primary Source

Chart: Slave population in 1860



How did the principles of the Declaration of Independence contribute to the quest to end slavery from colonial times to the outbreak of the Civil War?

- ☐ I can interpret primary sources related to Founding principles of liberty, equality, and justice from the colonial era to the outbreak of the Civil War.
- ☐ I can explain how laws and policy, courts, and individuals and groups contributed to or pushed back against the quest to end slavery.
- ☐ I can create an argument using evidence from primary sources.
- ☐ I can analyze issues in history to help find solutions to present-day challenges.

Building Context

The U.S. Census Bureau counts the number of people living in the United States every 10 years. The data collected are used to calculate the number of seats given to each state in the U.S. House of Representatives. The population numbers from the 1860 census are shown below.

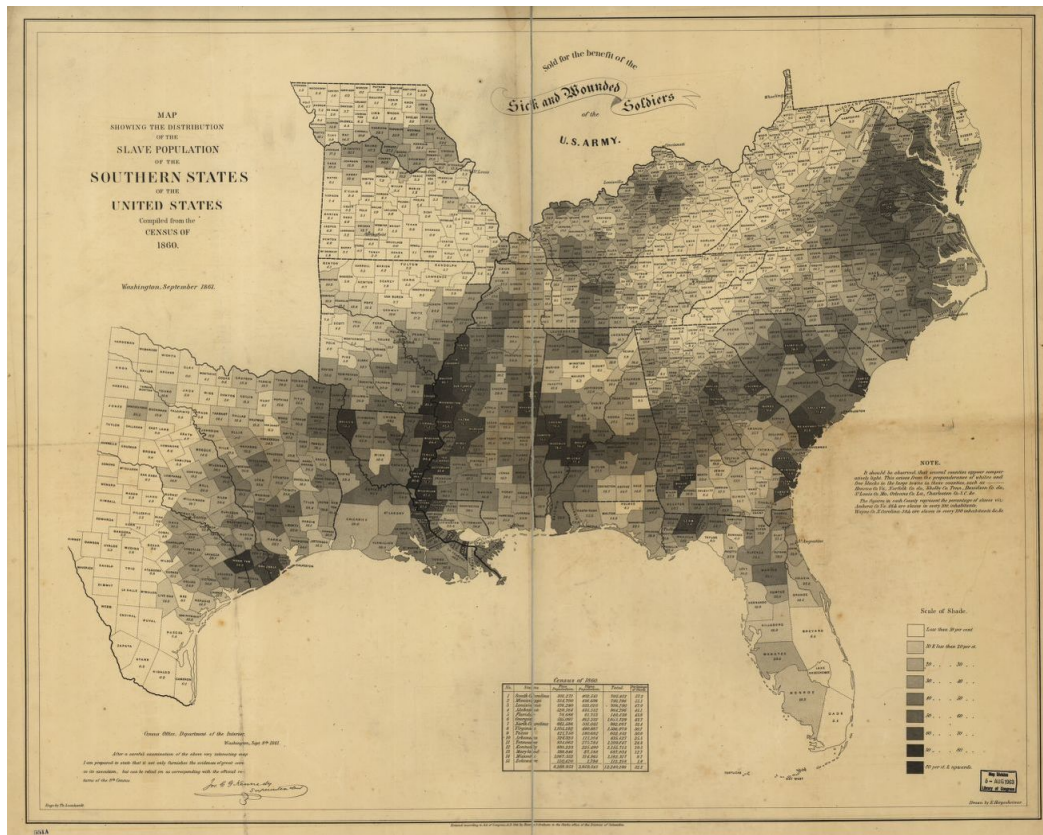
Slave population in 1860 chart

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1860_United_States_census

No.	States	Total	Free Population	Slave Population	Percentage of Slaves
1	South Carolina	703,708	301,302	402,406	57.2
2	Mississippi	791,305	354,674	436,631	55.2
3	Louisiana	708,002	376,276	331,726	46.9

4	Alabama	964,201	529,121	435,080	45.1
5	Florida	140,424	78,679	61,745	44.0
6	Georgia	1,057,286	595,088	462,198	43.7
7	North Carolina	992,622	661,563	331,059	33.4
8	Virginia	1,596,318	1,105,453	490,865	30.7
9	Texas	604,215	421,649	182,566	30.2
10	Arkansas	435,450	324,335	111,115	25.5
11	Tennessee	1,109,801	834,082	275,719	24.8
12	Kentucky	1,155,684	930,201	225,483	19.5
13	Maryland	687,049	599,860	87,189	12.7
14	Missouri	1,182,012	1,067,081	114,931	9.7
15	Delaware	112,216	110,418	1,798	1.6
		12,240,296	3,950,343	8,289,593	32.2

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5e/SlavePopulationUS1860.jpg/275px-SlavePopulationUS1860.jpg>



Comprehension and Analysis Questions

1. According to this data, was slavery confined to the South? Explain.

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2. Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri were known as “border states” during the Civil War. Based on the chart above, why was this significant?

