

Lesson 1 Glossary

Glossary terms are listed in the order in which they appear.

Background Essay

Coerced	forced
Atlantic System	A system of trade during the 18th and 19th centuries that involved Western Europe, West Africa and Central Africa, and North and South America. Major goods traded involved manufactured goods such as firearms and alcohol, slaves, and commodities such as sugar, molasses, tobacco, and cotton.
Execrable	horrific
Middle Passage	The part of the Atlantic slave trade where Africans were densely packed onto ships and transported across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World.
Natural rights	Rights which belong to humans by nature and can only be justly abridged through due process. Examples are life, liberty, and property
Gang system	A way of managing enslaved work on plantations in which planters or their overseers drove groups of enslaved persons, closely watched their work, and applied physical coercion to compel them to work faster.
Task system	A way of managing enslaved work on plantations where enslaved persons were often assigned specific tasks and allowed to stop working when they reached their goals.
Paternalistic	Making decisions for another person as if a parent, rather than allowing that person the freedom to make their own decisions and choices.

Lesson and Activities

Petition	A formal written request, typically to a government or government official.
Indentured servants	Men and women who signed a contract or were indentured to work for a certain number of years in return for transportation to the American colonies and food, clothing, and shelter once they arrived. After completion of their contract, they were given their freedom.
Codify	To officially compile into written law that must be followed.
Mulatto	A person of mixed African and European descent.
One hundred and fifty pounds	The pound was a unit of British money. One pound equaled 20 shillings or 240 pence. £150 was a very large sum of money for 1769 and is roughly equivalent to \$36,000 in 2022.
Manumit	To release legally from slavery.
Wench	An insulting term for a woman.
Pamunky (Panmunkey)	Virginia Indian tribe in the coastal area of southeastern Virginia. The Pamunkey River is named for the tribe.
Countenance	Appearance.
Waitingman	A person who waits on customers as in an inn or place of lodging or in the home of a family.
Endeavor	To try.

Extend Activity

Indentured servitude	A system in which men and women signed a contract or were indentured to work for a certain number of years in return for transportation to the American colonies and food, clothing and shelter once they arrived.
Indenture	The contract signed by an indentured servant and their master as an agreement to provide a certain number of

	years of labor in return for passage to the American colonies and food, clothing and shelter once they arrived.
Chattel	Personal property.
Mulatto	A person of mixed African and European descent.
Freedom dues	A gift of land and starting materials such as clothing or seeds from a master to a former indentured servant after their contract for labor was complete.
Staymaker	A person who makes corsets.
Mantuumaker	A person who makes women's clothing.
Contrives	Delivers.
Pistole	A Spanish gold coin. Colonists were not allowed to coin their own money and usually used foreign coins. In the mid-18th century, a pistole was worth slightly less than one pound.