

LESSON TWO: SLAVERY IN THE COLONIES

INTRODUCTION

Slavery—defined as the ownership and forced exploitation of one person by another—was the foundation of the agricultural system in Virginia and the cornerstone of the colony’s economy. At first, planters bought slaves primarily to raise tobacco for export. By the last quarter of the eighteenth century, slave-owning farmers were using slave labor throughout the diversified agricultural economy of the region. Enslaved African-Americans also worked as skilled tradesmen and served as domestics in the households of middling-sort and wealthy white Virginians.

OBJECTIVES

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain that slaves were individuals possessing a variety of skills and personal characteristics.
2. Describe the impact enslaved African-Americans had on the colonial Virginia economy.
3. List and evaluate the various skills and occupations valued most by white slaveholders.
4. Explain the concept that in the eighteenth century enslaved African-Americans were considered property.
5. Read and interpret eighteenth-century primary source materials.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Virginia Gazette Runaway Slave Advertisements

Virginia Gazette Notice: “A Scheme of a Lottery”

Quote from Isaac Weld’s *Travels Through the States of North America, 1795–1797*

NoteFolio™ Files: SLAVLIF, SLAVLIF2, SLAVLIF3, and SLAVLIF4

TI-83 Plus or TI-83 Plus Silver Edition

TI Keyboard

CellSheet™ Application for the TI-83 Plus

NoteFolio™ Application for the TI-83 Plus

TI-Presenter™ or Viewscreen™ Overhead Panel

TI-Navigator™ Classroom Network (optional)

LearningCheck™ Creator (optional)

LearningCheck™ Application for the TI-83 Plus (optional)

Tip Sheet: Using CellSheet™ (optional)

Tip Sheet: CellSheet™ Plug-in for Microsoft® Excel

PROCEDURE

SETTING THE STAGE

1. Divide the class into teams of two students each.
2. Give each team of students a set of five *Virginia Gazette* Runaway Slave Advertisements [NOTE: Some overlapping of advertisements is perfectly acceptable.]

- Have each team create a CellSheet™ document listing typical personal characteristics found in the *Virginia Gazette* advertisements, including such things as age, clothing, physical characteristics, literacy, or language skills.

In the same CellSheet™ file, have students create a skills/occupations column in which they list slave characteristics or skills that would have been valuable to slave owners (blacksmithing, carpentry, or sewing skills, for example). The skills/occupations should be listed in order from most important to least important, with most important starting at the top. The order of each team’s listings should be based on evidence gleaned from their assigned runaway advertisements.

CellSheet™ Tip: To enter text in a cell, press [ALPHA] ["] (or [2nd] [ALPHA] [A-Lock] ["]), and then enter the text. Any character string that is preceded by quotation marks is treated as text. Dates and times must be entered as text.

S01	A	B	C
1	PERSONAL CHARACTERI		
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

A1: "PERSONAL CHARF→[Menu]

S01	A	B	C	D
1	PERSON OCCUPATIONS			
2		HOUSE SERVAN		
3		BLACKSMITH		
4				
5				
6				

B4: "CARPENTERI

- Ask each team to present its findings to the class. As each team shares its information, the teacher should compile a single master list by opening an Excel spreadsheet and typing the names of the categories of personal characteristics in column “A” of the spreadsheet, the number of occurrences of each of those characteristics in column “B,” the names of the various job skills/occupations in column “C,” and the number of occurrences of each skill/occupation in column “D.” When all groups have presented their information, use the CellSheet™ Plug-in for Microsoft® Excel to convert the Excel spreadsheet to a CellSheet™ file to the students’ devices (Refer to the Tip Sheet: CellSheet™ Plug-in for Microsoft® Excel).
- As a class activity, graph the job skills/occupations as both a bar chart and a pie chart. Visit the following link for detailed instructions on how to graph bar charts and pie charts in CellSheet™:

http://education.ti.com/downloads/guidebooks/eng/ti83pcellsheetapp_eng.pdf

6. Take some time to use the gathered data as the basis for a class discussion about eighteenth-century slaves being individuals possessing a variety of skills and personal characteristics. Despite being treated as property, they were human beings.

STRATEGY

1. Rearrange the class, combining teams to form groups of four students each.
2. Give each group a copy of the master CellSheet™ list and Notefolio™ file **SLAVLIF**. Using data from the master CellSheet™ list, have each group answer the questions in the Notefolio™ file. [NOTE: A teacher with the TI-Navigator™ classroom network may distribute questions via the LearningCheck™ application and pull answers back to display for the entire class.]

Using the groups' answers to the questions, conduct a class discussion and generate consensus answers for each question.

3. Send each group a copy of Notefolio™ file **SLAVLIF2**. Have each group answer these questions comparing the lives of slaves and white southerners in the eighteenth century. When all groups have finished answering the questions, debrief with a class discussion.
4. Give each group a copy of “A Scheme of a Lottery.” Ask students to create a new CellSheet™ file that graphs the following three categories as percentages of the total value of the sale: Livestock, Land, and Slaves. These figures should then be plotted as a pie chart.
5. Send each group a copy of Notefolio™ file **SLAVLIF3**. Have students answer the two questions contained in this file. [NOTE: Each group may appoint a recorder to type the group's answers as they discuss each question, linking the finished file to the rest of the group when everything has been recorded, or they can each type their own answers as the group discusses the questions.]
6. As a class, discuss the “A Scheme of a Lottery” questions and answers. Conclude the lesson by analyzing/answering the following question: “What is the fundamental difference between slaves and white southerners of whatever socioeconomic level?”

EVALUATION

1. Give students a copy of the Notefolio™ file **SLAVLIF4**.
2. As a class, discuss the quote from Isaac Weld's *Travels Through the States of North America, 1795–1797*. Based on the class discussion and information gleaned from earlier portions of this lesson, have students write individual responses—in essay form—to the question contained in Notefolio™ file **SLAVLIF4**.
3. Collect student responses by having students link their completed file to the teacher's device, or by selecting “Get from Class” using the TI-Navigator network.

VIRGINIA GAZETTE RUNAWAY SLAVE ADVERTISEMENTS

RAN away from the subscriber in Lancaster County, the seventeenth Instant, a dark Mullatto Fellow, named Will: He is a lusty, well-set Fellow, aged about 42 Years; he is pretty much Pock-fretten, and has a Lump on the hind Part of One of his Legs, near his Heel. He wore a Man's Cloth Jacket, a Pair of brown Cotton Breeches, and an Oznebrig Shirt; he carried with him, a white Fustian Jacket, a lopping Ax, and a Fiddle: He is a Carpenter, Sawyer, Shoemaker, and Cooper. Whoever will apprehend the said Slave, or give Intelligence so that he may be had again, shall be sufficiently rewarded, besides what the Law allows, paid by
JAMES BALL.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Parks), April 28, 1738.



RAN away, about the First Day of June last, from the Subscriber, living on *Chickahominy* River, *James-City* County, a Negroe Man, short and well-set, aged between 30 and 40 Years, but looks younger, having no Beard, is smooth-fac'd and has some Scars on his Temples, being the Marks of his Country; talks pretty good *English*; is a cunning, subtile Fellow, and pretends to be a Doctor. It is likely, as he has a great Acquaintance, he may have procur'd a false Pass. Whoever brings him to me, at my House aforesaid, shall have Two Pistoles Reward, besides what the Law allows.

MICHAEL SHERMAN.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Parks), Nov. 21-28, 1745.



Ran away from one of the Subscriber's Quarters on *Sapponic*, in *Prince George County*, 14 or 15 Weeks ago, a Mulattoe Man Slave, named *Tom*, 25 Years old, about 5 feet 8 or 9 Inches high, thin faced, and bushy Hair, if not cut off; he is very apt to grin when he speaks, or is spoken to; had on an old dark Fustian Coat, with plain yellow Metal Buttons; Hath been several Times taken up, and escaped again before he could be deliver'd to the Quarter whereunto he belong'd; and the last Time shackled, Handcuffed, and an Iron Collar about his Neck, with Prongs, and to some of them Links. Whoever will deliver him to me, in *Charles-City* County, shall have a Pistole Reward, besides what the Law allows; and if brought from any great Distance a farther Reward suitable to the Trouble, by

JOHN STITH.

N.B. It is suspected he will endeavour to escape on Board some Vessel.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Hunter), June 18, 1751.



Run away from the subscriber, in *Mecklenburg* county on *Wednesday* last, a fellow named JACK. It appears he has been principally concerned in promoting the late disorderly meetings among the Negroes, and is gone off for fear of being prosecuted for many robberies he has committed. He is a low squat made fellow, bow legged, his eyes remarkably red, has been branded on the right cheek R, and on the left M, though not easily to be perceived. It is supposed he intends for *Carolina* or *Georgia*. Whoever apprehends the said slave, and will deliver him to me, shall receive 50s. if taken 50 miles from home and 6d. a mile for a greater distance.

ROBERT MUNFORD.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), May 2, 1766.



Run away from the subscriber, the 20th of *October* last, a likely young Mulatto man named SAM HOWELL, 23 years old, about 5 feet 9 inches high, well made for strength, has a remarkable good set of teeth, very black large eyebrows, and is a little bow legged— as for his apparel it is so long since he went away that I suppose he has worn them out, and got others. He was bound for 31 years, according to the condition of his mother, who was to serve until that time; his pretence for going away was to apply to some lawyer at *Williamsburg* to try to get his freedom, though he had a trial in the county court, and was adjudged to serve his full time. I did hear that he applied to the King's attorney, and he told him he could not get free until his time was out; and I have never heard from him since. As he passes for a free man, I imagine he will endeavour to get on board some vessel, I therefore desire all masters of vessel not to entertain him, or carry him out of the country. Whoever apprehends the said slave, and brings him to me, in *Cumberland* county, on *James* river, shall receive £5 reward.

WADE NETHERLAND.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), May 2, 1766.



PRINCE GEORGE, Sept. 28, 1767

RUN AWAY from the subscriber, the 22d of this instant, three slaves, *viz.* JUPITER, alias GIBB, a Negro fellow, about 35 years of age, about 6 feet high, knock kneed, flat footed, the right knee bent in more than the left, has several scars on his back from a severe whipping he lately had at *Sussex* court-house, having been tried there for stirring up the Negroes to an insurrection, being a great Newlight preacher. ROBIN, about 25 years of age, a stout fellow, about 6 feet high, has a film over one of his eyes, a sore on one of his shins, and is brother to *Gibb*. DINAH, an old wench, very large, near 6 feet high; she has a remarkable stump of a thumb, occasioned by a whitlow, by which the bones of the first joint came out and is mother to the two fellows. They carried with them a variety of clothes, among the rest an old blue duffil great coat, one bearskin do. a scarlet jacket, and a fine new linen shirt. It is supposed they will endeavour to make their escape to the southward. Whoever takes up, and conveys to me the above slave, shall have a reward of 50s. for each of the fellows, and 20s for the wench, if taken in *Virginia*; if any other government, £5 for each of the fellows, and 40s for the wench, paid by

GEORGE NOBLE.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Oct. 8, 1767.



RUN away from the subscriber in *Chesterfield*, the *Wednesday* before *Easter* last, a bright mulatto wench named JUDE, about 30 years old is very remarkable, has lost one eye, but which I have forgot, has long black hair, a large scar on one of her elbows, and several other scars in her face, and has been subject to running away ever since she was ten years old. I have great reason to think she will pass for a free woman, and endeavour to make into *South Carolina*. She is very knowing about house business, can spin, weave, sew, and iron, well. She had on when she went away her winter clothing, also a blue and white striped *Virginia* cloth gown, a *Virginia* cloth copperas and white striped coat, besides others too tedious to mention. Whoever conveys the said slave to me shall be well rewarded for their trouble.

MARY CLAY.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Oct. 20, 1768.



RUN away from the subscriber in *Charles City* county, the 14th of *April* last, a VIRGINIA born Negro fellow named PETER, about 44 years of age, of a black complexion, a slim fellow, his teeth cut before as if broke off, and is a sly artful rogue if not watched; he carried with him sundry clothes, such as crop Negroes usually wear, also a white *Virginia* cloth waistcoat and petticoat, a *Tarlton* plaid gown, and sundry other of his wife's clothes. He also carried away a gun of an uncommon large size, and a fiddle, which he is much delighted in when he gets any strong drink, which he is remarkably fond of, and then very talkative and impudent. I suspect he is gone to *Amelia* county, to Mr. *Tanner's*, as Mrs. *Tanner*, alias Mrs. *Johnson*, sold him to Mr. *Richard Hayles*, and by him sold to the subscriber, as he often told the other Negroes that if ever I used him ill he would go to his old mistress, as she never sold him to Mr. *Hayles*, but only lent him during pleasure, and that he would go to her and be protected. The said Negro is outlawed; and I will give £10 to any person or persons that will kill him and bring me his head, separate from his body, or 40s. if delivered to the subscriber near the *Long Bridge*.

WILLIAM GREGORY.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), May 11, 1769.



RUN away from the subscriber in *Essex*, a Mulatto fellow (who some time ago belonged to Mr. *Thomas Barnes*) named JOE, of the middle size, well proportioned, combs his hair remarkably neat, has been always kept as a waitingman, is very smart in his answers, and understands house business, as well as the management of horses. He is a good shoemaker, and can do many other things, can read and write tolerably well, and probably may have a forged pass, of discharge, as he had one wrote by me to pass until the 31st of *July*. He has a variety of clothes, but those most commonly used by him are a blue *Newmarket* coat, a brown fustian do. leather breeches, an old green shag jacket, a coarse leaden coloured cloth coat and vest, with white metal buttons, a laced hat, and another bound with black ferret, several white shirts, stockings, etc. He carried with him a dark brown blooded mare, about 13 hands and a half high, about 3 years old, trots, has a little white I believe on one of her feet, and branded on her buttock WR in a piece. He was seen on

Sunday the 30th of *July* with the said mare saddled, and a bundle of clothes at Mr. *Robert Tomlin's*, in *Richmond* county. Whoever takes up the runaway and mare, and conveys them to me, living near *Hobb's Hole*, shall have £5 reward; and if taken upward of 50 miles from *Hobb's Hole*, shall be paid for travelling.

WILLIAM ROANE.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Aug. 24, 1769.



Forty Shillings Reward.

RUN away from the subscriber, in *York* County, about the 11th or 12th of *November* last, a very black Negro man named Ben, about 5 feet 6 inches high, 35 years old, spare made, by trade a carpenter, and understands something of the coopers business, his upper teeth rotten, he has many clothes, so it is impossible to describe them. He took with him sundry carpenters and coopers tools. I expect he will endeavor to pass for a freeman, as he can read tolerably well, and am doubtful of his obtaining a pass from some evil disposed person, and leave the colony. This is to desire all master of vessels, and others, from harbouring him; and I will give the above reward to any person that will deliver him to me, at Mr. *James Shield's*, near *Williamsburg*.

JOSHUA JONES.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), April 5, 1770.



£.20 REWARD

Run away from the subscriber on *Monday* night the 9th instant, three Negro men, two of them slaves, viz. NED, about 5 feet 8 inches high, 21 years of age, of a yellow complexion, a likely well made fellow; his usual clothing an osnabrug shirt, dark gray fearnought waistcoat, cotton breeches, coarse yarn stockings, bad shoes, and a felt hat. He also took other clothes, but what not yet known. FRANK, a foreign Negro, a very good cook, says he was born in the *Spanish West Indies*, speaks bad *English*, as also *French*, *Spanish*, and some *Dutch*, near the same height of Ned, about 30 years of age, of a yellow complexion, with little or no beard, and has several remarkable wounds on his body, and a large one near his throat; he is clothed in blue plains, osnabrug shirt, and felt hat, as also a pair of red flannel muffs, and a red cap. HENRY COOKE, a free Negro, born in *Gloucester* County, but indented himself for five years for the cure of a pox, about 5 feet 10 or 11 inches high, about 24 years of age, lusty and very well made, of a good black complexion, and thick lips; his clothing mean, being an old brown cloth waistcoat and breeches much patched with green cloth, osnabrug shirt, yarn stockings, very bad shoes, though he took leather with him ready cut out for another pair. He understands a little of the carpenter business, and has likewise followed the water. It is thought they took with them a Negro fellow belonging to the estate of the late Major *William Tate*, middle aged, about 5 feet 6 inches high, well set, bow legged, of a dark copper complexion, an old offender in this way, and a few years past advertised in the *Maryland* and *Pennsylvania Gazette* by *William Tate*, deceased, by virtue of which he was taken near the head of the bay, within a few miles of the *Pennsylvania* government. They took with them a yawl of about 18 feet keel, *London* clinch work, painted

white to her gunwales, two good sails, rudder, and two new pine oars. The £20 reward, or £5 for each, will be paid if taken in any other colony; but if taken in *Virginia* only £12 or £3 for each.

WILLIAM FLOOD.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), April 19, 1770.



WILLIAMSBURG, October 15, 1771

COMMITTED to the publick Jail, from *Gloucester* Prison, a Negro Fellow who appears to be between forty and fifty Years of Age, about five Feet nine or ten Inches high, a thin Visage, has lost his left Eye, and is clothed in Negro Cotton. As he cannot speak a Word of *English*, he is incapable of telling either his own or Owner's name. Also another Negro named SHARPER, a likely well made fellow, who seems to be about twenty two Years of Age, speaks broken *English*, and either cannot or will not tell his Owner's Name, or from what Part of the Colony he came. Whoever has a just Claim to them are desired to take them away and pay Charges.

PETER PELHAM, K.P.G.

Source: *Virginia Gazette*, (Purdie & Dixon), Oct. 17, 1771.



COMMITTED to the Jail of *Dinwiddie* County, on the 8th of *September*, a Negro Fellow who cannot tell his Master's Name. He is well made, of the middle Size, marked down his Cheeks, and had on an Osnabrug Shirt, new Felt Hat, a *Dutch* Blanket, and Rolls Trousers. The Owner is desired to prove his Property and take him away.

LEWIS LANIER, Jailer.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Oct. 17, 1771.



TEN POUNDS REWARD

RUN away from the Subscriber, in *Northumberland*, on *Wednesday* the 14th of *October*, a very likely young *Virginia* born Negro Man named DAVID, of a yellowish Complexion, and about five Feet five Inches high; had on when he went off an Osnabrug Shirt, a Pair of Purple *Virginia* Cloth Breeches lined with white Linen, a Pair of Rolls Breeches over them, and a Fearnought Jacket with Horn Buttons. He carried with him a brown coloured Kersey Jacket, a blue and white *Virginia* Cloth One with coarse Osnabrug Pockets, brown and white Linen Shirts, and sundry other Clothes which I cannot well describe; but, as he is a very cunning artful Fellow, I imagine he will sell and swap his Clothes as may suit him. Though his Hair is of the Negro Kind, he keeps it very high and well combed; but, as he wants to be free, I imagine he will cut it off, and get a Wig to alter and disguise himself. He had with him thirty or forty Shillings in Silver Money, and a Brass Medal with Image of our present King and Queen on it, which he will endeavour to pass for Gold. He can read pretty well, and I make no Doubt will endeavour to pass for a Freeman and get himself a forged Pass, and endeavour for some foreign Part, either by getting on Board of some Vessel or stealing some Gentleman's Horse and make for *Carolina*. He

has always been my Waiting Man when I went from home, and is a good Waiter, Driver, and Hostler, understands something of Gardening, of combing and dressing Wigs and Hair, can plough, work at the Hoe and Axe very well, and is on the Whole, a very clever active brisk Fellow. Whoever will apprehend the said Runaway, and bring him home to me, or secure him in any Jail in the Colony, so that I get him, shall have FIVE POUNDS Reward, and reasonable Charges allowed; if out of the Colony TEN POUNDS, and reasonable Charges for bringing him home.

THOMAS GASKINS.

N.B. He is suspected to have carried with him a Drab coloured Sailor's Jacket with Slash Sleeves, Leather Buttons on the Sleeves, if not on the Breast, and lined through with red and white Swantkin; also a Pair of old white Plush Breeches which are missing.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Nov. 5, 1772.



RUN away from the Subscriber, two Negro Men, namely: JACK, a well set full faced, Country born Fellow, about thirty five Years of Age, five Feet seven or eight inches high, was lately seen lurking about Mr. *Sterling Thornton's* at *Verina*, where he has a Wife, and has been absent from my Service since *February* last. JOE, born in the *Spanish West Indies*, speaks *English* very indifferently, is remarkably stout and well made, about the Age of *Jack*, five Feet nine or ten Inches high, and has been absent about a Fortnight. They are both Watermen, and carried with them the Clothes usually wore by such Negroes. *Jack* has for some Time gone as Skipper of one of my Flats, and *Joe* is well known on *James River*, Whoever apprehends the said Slaves, and conveys them to me in *Petersburg*, or secures them in Jail, and advises me thereof, shall be well rewarded for any Trouble and Expense they may be at.

EDWARD BRISBANE.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), July 22, 1773.



Run away from the Subscriber, in *Hanover*, an indented Servant Man named JOHN COWGILL, about twenty five years of Age, five Feet seven or eight inches high, a thick well set Man, with short light coloured Hair, and had on an Osnabrug Shirt and Trousers, a Pair of Shoes, and a Hat. As he has been used to the Sea, I imagine he may make down the Country: All Master of Vessels are therefore cautioned from harbouring or carrying him out of the Colony. Whoever brings him to me in *Hanover*, or to Mr. *John Brooke* in *Richmond*, shall have THIRTY SHILLINGS Reward, and be paid all reasonable Charges.

JOHN HARRIS.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), July 22, 1773.



Run away from the Subscriber, in the upper End of *King William*, about the 1st of *September*, two new Negro Men, of the *Ibo* Country, named CHARLES and FRANK, who have been in the Province about twelve Months, and it is supposed cannot tell their Master's Name. *Charles* is a large Fellow, with his Country Marks in his Face, and has lost or broke off one or two of his fore Teeth, which he says was done by a Cow in his Country. *Frank* is a smaller Fellow, well set, and has sharp Teeth. They carried with them a *Dutch* Blanket, had each a coarse Hat, and other usual Summer Clothes. Whoever delivers both or either of them to me, or secures them and gives me Notice therof, shall be well rewarded for their Trouble, besides what the law allows.

JOSEPH HILLYARD.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), December 2, 1773.



COMMITTED to *Isle of Wight* Jail, an outlandish Negro Fellow named WILL, about six feet high, has two Jackets, one of a blue Colour, the other made of Cotton, and neither Shirt or Breeches. He speaks *English* badly, and either cannot or will not tell his Master's Name, but sometimes says he belongs to *Mr. Mitchell*. The Owner is desired to prove his Property, pay Charges, and take him away.

JOHN TAILOR, Jailer.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Dec. 2, 1773.



RUN away from the subscriber, about the 20th of *April*, a Mulatto Fellow named PETER BROWN, by Trade a Painter, but can do Carpenters Work, about 35 or 40 Years of Age, five Feet eight or nine Inches high, of a dark Complexion, slim made, thin Visage, has lost several of his upper fore Teeth, is fond of Singing and sings well, has several Suits of Clothes, therefore I cannot describe his Dress. He was some Years past tried for a Robbery; and found guilty, but obtained the Governour's Pardon on suffering one Year's Imprisonment. After that Time he was sold to *Mr. John Fox* of *Gloucester*, with whom he lived one or two Years; he then ran away and passed for a Freeman in the Counties of *King William*, *Caroline*, and *Hanover*, where he was taken up and brought home. As he has a Wife at *Mr. Benjamin Hubbard's*, it is likely he may be lurking in that Neighbourhood, or near *Petersburg*, where he was raised. Whoever takes up the said Runaway, and delivers him to me at *Osborne's*, shall have 40s. Reward. All Persons are forbid from harbouring or carrying him out of the Colony.

PETERFIELD TRENT.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), June 16, 1774.



COMMITTED to *Chesterfield* Jail, a Negro Man who says his Name is JOHN EMANUAL, he has passed for a number of Years as a Freeman, and says he was brought into this Colony by a *Spanish* Vessel which was cast away on our Bay, the Master's Name *John Chip*, that they were taken from the Wreck and carried into *Norfolk*, where he served some Time with Colonel

Hutchings as a Sailor, on Board one of his Vessels that went up and down the River. He has a little Negro Boy with him named JACK CAWN, who he says is free, and the Son of one *Fanny Cawn*, now living in *Norfolk*. The Owners, if they are Slaves, are desired to prove their Property, pay Charges, and take them away; or if any Person knows of their being free, they will oblige them by giving Information thereof.

JAMES BALL, Jailer.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Aug. 18, 1774.



YORK Town, October 10, 1774

Run away from the Subscriber, last *Friday*, a likely *Virginia* born Negro Man called JOHNNY, about 22 Years of Age, five Feet eight Inches high, has a down Look, and walks upright; he carried with him a Variety of Clothes, is fond of Liquor, in which he is very talkative and insinuating, has been always bred to the House, and is an extraordinary good Waiter. This Fellow formerly belonged to *Armistead Lightfoot*, Esq; deceased, and is remarkable for Cock-fighting, Card-playing, and many other Games. I suspect he will pass as a Freeman, and endeavour to get out of the Colony, as he can read and write. All Masters of Vessels are cautioned not to carry him off, at their Peril. I will give 40s. if taken within this Colony and brought home, besides what the Law allows, or £5 if taken in any other Colony.

CHARLES GRYMES.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Oct. 13, 1774.



OSBORNE'S, November 18, 1774

RUN away from the subscriber, a *Virginia* born Negro Fellow named WALTON, 23 Years of Age, of a light Complexion, middle Size, has a pleasing Countenance, his Skin very smooth, one of his upper fore Teeth is decaying, which it is likely he will pull out, and his Hair on the fore Par of his Head is cut short; he carried with him four Shirts, two of them new Sheeting, two Suits of Clothes, one *Russia* Drilling, the other dark brown Duffil, trimmed with gilt Buttons, &c. He had a Surtout Coat, Velvet Cap, Hat, and every Thing else suitable for a Waitingman. As he is a very artful and likely Fellow, he may endeavour to pass for a free Man, and I am doubtful has got a Pass from a Negro of mine who can write a good Hand. This Fellow has waited on me for three Years past, and always rode with me, so that he has a general Acquaintance: but as he was raised in *Nansemond*, near the old Town, it is probable he is gone there, as his Friends live in that Neighbourhood. Whoever takes up the said Runaway, and brings him home, shall have £3 Reward, or 30s. if committed to Jail. All Persons are forbid harbouring or carrying the said Slave out of the Colony.

PETERFIELD TRENT.

* * As the said Fellow ran away without receiving any Abuse, the *Taker up is desired to give him ten Lashes every ten Miles.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Dec. 1, 1774.

RUN away from the Subscriber's Plantation in *Manakin Town*, the last of July or first of *August* last, a black Negro Man named Tom, formerly the Property of Major *Henry Gaines* of *King William*, but since the said *Gaines's* Death has been sold several Times, and is now my Property. He was bred by Major *Gaines* to keeping Horses and riding Races, but is now a good Sawyer. He is not tall, knock-kneed, full Eyes, and I believe a Speck in one of them, caused by a Chip as he was cutting with an Axe. He values himself for his fine Dancing, is subject to Liquor, and fond of talking about Religion. If he is taken in the Colony, and brought to me, near the old Courthouse, in *Albemarle County*, or my Overseer, *James Scott*, at *Manakin Town*, I will give 3£ and if out of Colony £10.

JOHN SCOTT

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie & Dixon), Dec. 1, 1774.



TEN POUNDS REWARD

Run away from the subscriber in *Dunmore* county, in May last, a negro fellow named SAM. 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, has a broad face, and is a well looking fellow. As to his clothing, I cannot be certain, he having carried several things with him. He also took with him an old bay horse very gray about the head, an iron pot, a narrow axe, a handsaw, and an old smooth bore gun. About three years ago he purchased his freedom of his old master, Mr. *Francis Slaughter*, and continued in that state till this spring, when it was discovered he was attempting to inveigle away a number of negroes to the new or *Indian* country (where he had been most of the last summer) upon which the neighbours insisted on his being reduced to slavery again, and I purchased him. I imagine he will endeavour to pass as a freeman, he having a discharge from his old master, as well as one from *Lord Dunmore*, having served in the expedition against the *Indians* last fall. Whoever delivers said slave to me shall have the reward that is offered.

GABRIEL JONES.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie), June 23, 1775.



For SALE

A YOUNG, healthy NEGRO WENCH, who is an exceeding fine Spinner, can wash and iron well, and do other Business in a Family; likewise her CHILD. For farther Particulars inquire of the Printers of this Gazette.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Dixon & Hunter), Aug. 24, 1776.



Run away from the subscriber in *Dinwiddie*, the 5th day of *April* last, a dark mulatto man named JEMMY, 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, well made, has remarkable long feet, the middle toes longer than the rest, which they ride over, has lost part of one of his foreteeth, which occasions the next to it to look blue, is a very artful fellow, and will probably endeavour to pass for a freeman; he is very fond of *singing hymns* and *preaching*, and has been about *Williamsburg* ever since he went

off, passing by the name of *James Williams*. Whoever apprehends the said slave, and secures him so that I get him again, shall have 40s. reward, and if delivered to me in *Dinwiddie* £4.

DAVID WALKER.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie), Sept. 8, 1775.



RUN away from the subscriber's plantation, in Cumberland county, some time in December, 1774, TOM, a likely negro man about 32 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches high, with very full eyes. One of his thighs is broke just above his knee, as also one of his arms just above his wrist which I think leaves a scar. I believe he has also a scar on one side of his, forehead, and on one of his legs; he is a handy fellow in a house or stable, very sensible, exceeding talkative, and fond of strong drink. He rides and dances well, and was formerly the property of Mr. Aylett, in King William county, and raised by Major Ganes, deceased. Whoever secures him, so that I get him again, shall have FIVE POUNDS reward if taken in this colony, and TEN POUNDS if taken out.

JOHN SCOTT

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Pickney), Jan. 6, 1776.



RUN away the first of January 1775 a likely mulatto negro wench named KATE, 18 years of age, well made, 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, and talks very smooth. She was hired to Mr. *Philip Moody* of *Williamsburg* in 1774, and last year to Mr. *John Thruston*, from whence she ran off. She has got a husband in *Williamsburg*, and probably may pass for a free person as she is well acquainted in that city, and I have repeatedly heard of her being there. She formerly belonged to the estate of Mr. *John Cary*, deceased, of *York* county. I will give 20s. to any person that will secure her in jail and give me intelligence therof, or 40s if brought to me in *King & Queen*, at Mr. *John Thruston's*.

EDWARD CARY, jun.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Purdie), Nov. 29, 1776.



ESSEX County, November 18, 1776.

THE subscriber has for Sale, a likely young Negro Man, who has been bred from his Infancy as a waiting and riding Servant, is remarkably careful of Horses, and can be recommended for his Honesty and Sobriety, two superfine and nine Bolting Cloths and Reels, that have been in Use, sundry Articles of Household and Kitchen Furniture, such as Bedsteads with complete Sets of Callico and Gauze Curtains, Mohogany Chairs, Sideboard and Tea Table, Dressing Tables, a few large Table Cloths and Table Napkins, with some Kitchen Furniture, also a small assortment of Dry Good, which he would take a very moderate Advance upon, for ready Money

WILLIAM SHEDDEN.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Dixon & Hunter), Nov. 29, 1776.



THE MANUFACTURING SOCIETY in *Williamsburg* are in want of 5 or 6 likely NEGRO LADS from 15 to 20 years of age, and as many GIRLS from 12 to 15 years, also one or two WEAVERS, for whom they will give ready money. Those who incline to spin for the Society at their own houses may be furnished with flax, on application to the managers.
* * NEGRO GIRLS are received as Apprentices.

Source: *Virginia Gazette*, (Dixon & Hunter), February 7, 1777.



Run away from the subscriber in *Amelia*, on the 3d of March last, a negro man slave named SAM, about 28 years of age, about 5 feet 7 inches, well made, has a flat nose, large feet, and had on when he went away a *Newmarket* coat made of lightish coloured brown cloth, also a *Virginia* cloth jacket, cotton warp, and filled in with yarn, striped yarn breeches, double wove, his shirt cotton and thread; he is a carpenter by trade, and is a good cooper. He can read print, pretends to a deal of religion, has been a good fiddler and is acquainted with many parts of *Virginia*. I have a suspicion that some malicious person has given him a pass to travel to *North Carolina*, or some other parts of *North America*. I will give 40s. reward for apprehending the said runaway, if taken up in *Virginia*, £5 if taken up in any other state, and 6d. a mile for bringing him home, besides all reasonable expenses paid,

WILLIAM GREEN.

Source: *Virginia Gazette*, (Purdie), May 9, 1777.



RUN away from the subscriber in *Hanover*, two negro fellows, viz. LEWIS and PRINCE, the former was advertised some time last *May* by *John Wilson* to be delivered to the subscriber, and is a well set fellow about five feet six or seven inches high, has thick lips, and when spoke to a downcast look, had on when he went away a white hunting shirt, a pair of short breeches of tow and cotton, and a small hat. I expect he will endeavour to pass for a freeman, he having attempted to pass as such. *Prince* is an outlandish fellow, about six feet high, stout made, full eyed talks very fast, and not plain; had on a pair of sheepskin breeches, a woollen jacket serge wove, striped in the filling with black and white wool, a white cotton shirt, and took another of the same kind with him, and had on a small bound black hat. He formerly was the property of mr. Brown of *King William*, and has been much used to the tending of gentlemen, and is well acquainted with most of *America*. I expect he will endeavour to get to *Howe's* army, as he has once attempted to join *Dunmore*. Whoever will deliver the said runaways to the subscriber shall have ten dollars for each, or half the sum for securing them in jail, so I get them again, I will sell or swap either of them to any person they may incline to go to.

NELSON ANDERSON, jun.

Source: *Virginia Gazette*, (Purdie), Sept. 19, 1777.



BLAND'S ORDINARY (Prince George) Oct. 4, 1777.

Run away from the Subscriber last Night, a likely young Negro Wench Named HANNAH (Daughter of *Sykes's* Doctor) 18 or 19 Years of Age, a middle Stature, a good Deal like her Father, the well known Fiddler. This is the third Time of her Elopement since the Spring, and I am satisfied she was formerly harboured by ill disposed Persons, who may do so again, unless made aware that I am determined to prosecute them, if detected, and therefore promise a Reward of TEN POUNDS on Conviction of the offender, if a free Person. *Hannah* was dressed in a fine *Virginia* Cloth Jacket, bound at the Skirts and Sleeves with Pieces of Calico and *Virginia* Cloth, Petticoats of striped Cotton and Yarn, white Cotton Shift, Linen Handkerchief, a black Chip Hat, and Shoes and Stockings, she is fond of Dress, and has other Clothes that I cannot describe. Her Hair was lately cut in a very irregular Manner, as a Punishment for Offences, and may now be easily discovered. She is very insinuating, a notorious Thief, and Liar, and will endeavour to pass as a free Person, or frame some plausible Excuse for her Absence. If brought Home to me by any Person (white or black) I will give EIGHT DOLLARS Reward.

THOMAS FENNER.

Source: *Virginia Gazette*, (Dixon & Hunter), Oct. 17, 1777.



RUN away from the subscriber in *Williamsburg*, a negro man named BEN, who has for some time past drove my cart; is about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, black complexion, a long thin face; his hair thicker and longer than is common for negroes to have, had on an old blue coat trimmed with red, but as he has other clothes may change his dress. I will give THIRTY DOLLARS if taken in the neighbourhood of this city and delivered to me, or if at a greater distance FIFTY DOLLAS.

JOHN SAUNDERS.

Source: *Virginia Gazette*, (Dixon & Hunter), July 24, 1779.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE
VIRGINIA GAZETTE RUNAWAY ADVERTISEMENTS**

1. Were the slaves skilled or unskilled? How do you know?
2. How do you know if the maintenance of family ties was important?
3. What strategies did slaves develop to adapt to slavery?
4. What did slaves like to do for entertainment?
5. From descriptions about a slave's literacy, how important is this skill?

A SCHEME of a LOTTERY

For disposing of certain LANDS, SLAVES, and STOCKS,
belonging to the subscriber.

PRIZ.	£.50	VALUE.	CONTENTS of PRIZES.
1 of		£.500	To consist of a forge and geared grist-mill, both well fixed, and situate on a plentiful and constant stream, with 1800 acres of good land, in <i>King and Queen</i> county, near <i>Todd's Bridge</i> ; which cost 6000l.
1 of		1375	To consist of 550 acres of very good land, lying in <i>King William</i> county, on Pamunkey river, call <i>Gooch's</i> , part of 1686 acres, purchased of <i>William Claiborne</i> , deceased; the line to extend from said river to the back line across towards <i>Mattapony</i> .
1 of		1925	To consist 550 acres of very good land, adjoining and below the said tract lying on Pamunkey river, whereon is a good dwelling-house, 70 feet long and 20 feet wide, with three rooms below and three above; also all other good and convenient out-houses; 1000 fine peach trees thereon, with many apple trees and other sorts of fruit, a fine high and pleasant situation, and the plantation in exceeding good order for cropping; the line to extend from said river to the back line towards <i>Mattapony</i> .
1 of		1750	To consist of 586 acres, below the aforesaid two tracts; whereon is a fine peach orchard, and many fine apple trees; the plantation is in exceeding good order for cropping, and very fine for corn and tobacco, and abounds with a great quantity of white oak, which will afford, it's thought, a thousand pounds worth of plank and staves.
65 of	£.50	3250	To consist of 6500 acres of good land, in <i>Caroline</i> county; to be laid off in lots of 100 acres each.
4 of	75	300	To consist of 812 acres of good land, in <i>Spotsylvania</i> county, in the fork between <i>Northanna</i> and North Fork, with a large quantity of low grounds, and meadow land; to be laid off in lots of 203 acres each.
1 of		280	A Negro man named <i>Billy</i> , about 22 years old, an exceeding trusty good forgerman, as well at the finery as under the hammer, and understands putting up his fire: Also his wife named <i>Lucy</i> , a young wench, who works exceeding well both in the house and field.

1 of	80	A Negro woman named <i>Kate</i> , and a young child, <i>Judy</i> .	
1 of	60	A Negro girl, <i>Aggy</i> , and boy, <i>Nat</i> ; children of <i>Kate</i> .	
1 of	75	A Negro <i>Pompey</i> , a young fellow.	
1 of	110	A fine breeding woman named <i>Pat</i> , lame of one side, with child, and her three children, <i>Loet</i> , <i>Milley</i> , and <i>Charlotte</i> .	
1 of	60	A fine boy, <i>Phill</i> , son of <i>Patty</i> , about 14 years old.	
1 of	50	A Negro man named <i>Tom</i> , an outlandish fellow.	
1 of	280	A Negro man named <i>Caesar</i> , about 30 years old, a very good blacksmith, and his wife named <i>Nanny</i> , with two children, <i>Tab</i> and <i>Jane</i> .	
1 of	110	A Negro man named <i>Edom</i> , about 23 years old, a blacksmith who has served four years to the trade.	
1 of	160	A Negro man named <i>Moses</i> , about 23 years old, a good planter, and his wife <i>Phoebe</i> , a fine young wench, with her child <i>Nell</i> .	
1 of	50	A Negro woman named <i>Dorah</i> , wife of carpenter <i>Jemmy</i> .	
1 of	35	A Negro named <i>Venus</i> , daughter of <i>Tab</i> .	
1 of	25	A Negro named <i>Judy</i> , wife of <i>Sambo</i> .	
1 of	20	A Negro named <i>Lucy</i> , outlandish.	
1 of	25	A Negro named <i>Toby</i> , a good miller.	
1 of	100	A team of exceeding fine horses, consisting of four, and their gear; also a good waggon.	
1 of	80	A team of four horses, and their gear, with two coal waggons.	
1 of	20	200	To consist of 100 head of cattle, to be laid off in 10 lots.

124 PRIZES £.18,400

1716 BLANKS

1840 TICKETS at 10l. each, is £.18,400.

Managers ARE JOHN RANDOLPH, JOHN BAYLOR, GEORGE WASHINGTON, FIELDING LEWIS, ARCHIBALD CARY, CARTER BRAXTON, BENJAMIN HARRISON, RALPH WORMLEY, RICHARD HENRY LEE, THOMAS WALKER, THOMAS TABB, EDMUND PENDLETON, PETER LYONS, PATRICK COUTTS, NEIL JAMIESON, ALEXANDER DONALD, DAVID JAMESON, AND JOHN MADISON, Gentlemen.

The above LOTTERY will be drawn on Thursday the 15th day of December next, WILLIAMSBURG.

N.B. Not any of the cattle mentioned in this lottery, are to be under the age of two years, nor none to exceed 4 or five years old.

BERNARD MOORE.

**QUOTE FROM ISAAC WELD'S
*TRAVELS THROUGH THE STATES OF NORTH AMERICA***

Isaac Weld, an Irishman, came to America in 1795 at age 21. He wished to examine “with his own eyes the truth of the various accounts which had been given of the flourishing and happy condition of the United States of America.” Traveling for two years, he explored the resources of both the United States and Canada. He mixed with the best American society and met George Washington. Yet he returned home in 1797, “without entertaining the slightest wish to revisit.”

Still, however, let the condition of a slave be made ever so comfortable, as long as he is conscious of being the property of another man, who has it in his power to dispose of him according to the dictates of caprice; as long as he hears people around him talking of the blessings of liberty, and considers that he is in a state of bondage, it is not to be supposed that he can feel equally happy with the freeman.

Source: Isaac Weld, *Travels Through the States of North America*, ed. Joseph J. Kwiat (New York: Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1968), p. 149.