

Life on a Plantation by Bobbie Kalman. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1997. ISBN: 0-86505-465-7

Literary Annotation

Life on a Plantation compares the lives and customs of plantation owners in 19th century United States who lived in grand style in the "big house" next door to the slaves who lived in slave quarters and worked in the cotton, rice, and tobacco fields in the civil war era.

Grade Level: Grade 4

Duration: 2-3 Class Periods

Maryland State Curriculum

Economics Standard: Students will develop economic reasoning to understand the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world.

4.A.1.a Identify opportunity cost of economic decisions made by individuals, businesses, and governments

History Standard: Students will examine significant ideas, beliefs, and themes; organize patterns and events; and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time in Maryland, the United States, and around the world.

5.A.1.c Describe the establishment of slavery and how it shaped life in Maryland

College and Career Ready Standards for Reading Informational Text

- RI1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text (Grades 3-5)
- RI2 Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text. (Grades 3-5)
- RF3 Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words (Grades 3-5)
- RF4 Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- RI3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. (Grades 3-5)

Objectives: Students will...

- describe the importance of various skilled trades to the efficient operation of a plantation.
- Students analyze the costs and benefits of job specialization in the institution of slavery.
- analyze the benefits that enslaved peoples gained as a result of job specialization and how those benefits could help them escape enslavement.

Vocabulary

Interdependence: People depending on one another for resources, goods, and services. When people and businesses specialize, they become interdependent.

specialized work: the narrower range of defined skills or labor used to produce a part of a product; involves the division of tasks and dependence on other workers to complete the production of the good or service

Additional Vocabulary

barber	occupation
benefit	plantation
blacksmith	sawyer
carpenter	seamstress
chimney sweep	self-sufficient
collier	skill
cooper	slavery
cost	stereotype
distiller	stone-mason
efficient	trade
jockey	

Resources for Lesson

Student:

“Colonial Slavery.” *Footsteps* May/June 2002.

Kalman, Bobbie. *A Slave Family*. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 2003.

Kalman, Bobbie. *Life on a Plantation*. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1997.

“Slavery at Mount Vernon.” *Footsteps* November/December 2000.

Teacher Materials

5”x7” Index Cards

3”x5” Index Cards

Teacher should cut the buildings out of the following resource sheets and place them on a bulletin board. In addition, he/she should create a legend for the map.

Teacher Resource 1: *Plantation House*

Teacher Resource 2: *Miscellaneous Plantation Building* (Teacher may wish to create several copies of this building.)

Teacher Resource 3: *Plantation Boat Dock*

Teacher Resource 21b: *Answer Key: Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Enslaved Peoples*

Teacher Resource 22b: *Answer Key: Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Plantation Owners*

Student Materials

Student Resource 4-18: *Runaway Slave Advertisements*

Student Resource 19: *Skilled Trades on the Plantation*

Student Resource 20: *Plantation Occupations*

Student Resource 21: *Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Enslaved Peoples*

Student Resource 22: *Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Plantation Owners*

Before lesson:

- *Create a plantation map on a bulletin board with Teacher Resources 1-4. (See pages 6-7 “Around a Plantation” from Life on a Plantation by Bobbie Kalman for an example.)*
- *Cut out the Student Resource 1-15, “Runaway Slave Advertisements.” Glue each advertisement on a 5”X7” index card.*

Motivation

Write the word *Plantation* on an overhead or the chalkboard. Ask students to jot down their definition of the word. Discuss student responses.

Development

1. Have students read “What is a plantation?” on pages 4-5 from *Life on a Plantation* by Bobbie Kalman. Ask: Has your definition of the word *Plantation* changed? Discuss. Create a class definition of the word.
2. Divide the class into cooperative groups. Distribute an index card with a different runaway slave advertisement (Resources 4-18) to each cooperative group. Have students read the advertisement and answer the following questions.
 - What is the purpose of this advertisement?
 - What does this advertisement tell us about the person it describes?

After groups have read their advertisement and discussed the questions, lead a class discussion on the advertisements. Lead the students to the idea that all of these runaway slaves had a “trade” or a special skill that made them useful to their owner. Make a list of the trades identified in the advertisements. Ask: Why do you think these enslaved individuals were trained in those trades?

3. Explain that the entire purpose of a plantation was to make money for its owner. Because of this, the plantation needed to be self-sufficient. In order to do that, many, if not most, of the specialized trades were assigned to the enslaved people on the plantation. Remind students of the list of trades that they made when reading the advertisements. Have them brainstorm

additional skills/trades that might be needed in order to make a plantation self-sufficient. Add the trades to the class list.

4. Show students pages 6-7 “Around a Plantation” from *Life on a Plantation* by Bobbie Kalman. After students have looked at the map and read the sidebar on page 6, have them add additional trades to their class list.
5. Distribute Student Resource 19: *Skilled Trades on the Plantation*. Tell students that they are going to investigate the trade identified in their Runaway Slave Advertisement. Using various classroom resources, students should complete Student Resource 19. After they have completed the worksheet, each group should draw their symbol on two 3”x5” index cards.
6. After all groups have finished, they should report out by reading the information on their trade to the class and posting their symbol on the area of the bulletin board plantation map that would house that occupation and in the legend. As each group reports out, students should complete Student Resource 20: *Plantation Occupations*.
7. As a class, complete Student Resource 21a: *Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Enslaved Peoples*. Explain that many enslaved peoples used the benefits that they had obtained as a skilled tradesperson to escape the degrading institution of slavery. Have a discussion of what skills might have been helpful in escaping to freedom and life in the North.
8. Explain to students that just as there were costs and benefits of job specialization to enslaved peoples, the owners of the plantation also had costs and benefits. In pairs, have students complete Student Resource 22a: *Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Plantation Owners*. Debrief as a class.

Assessment

Have students write a journal entry based on the following prompt:

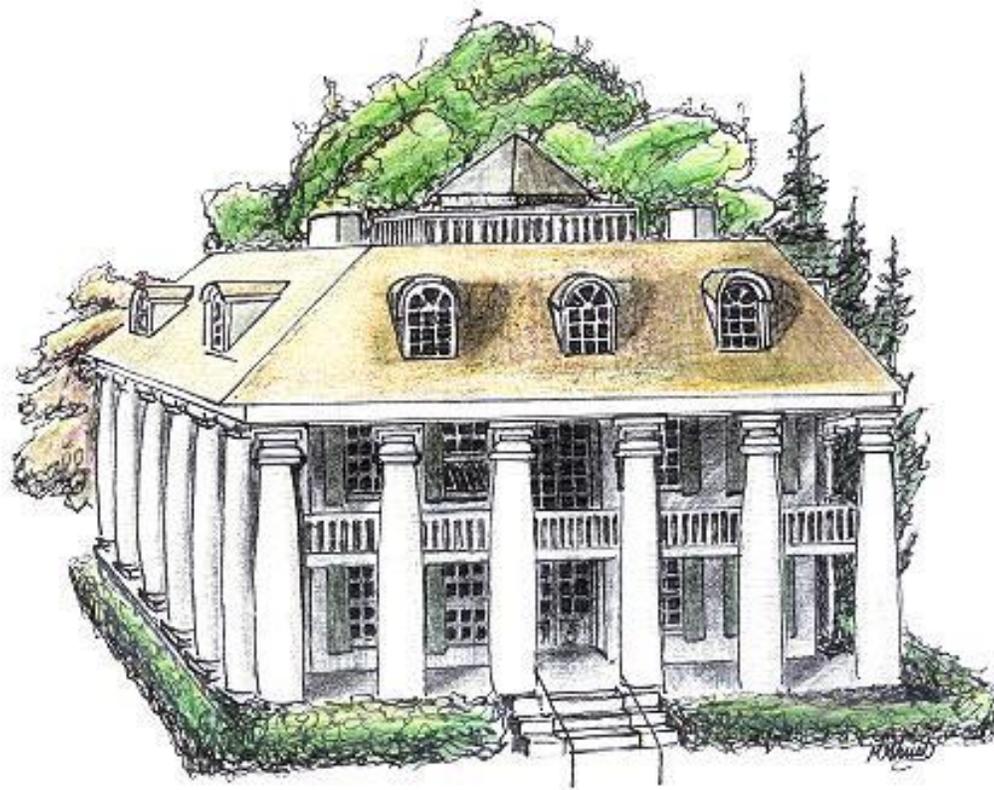
You are a journalist and have been asked to interview an enslaved person on a southern plantation that has been trained to perform a specialized skill.

Write an article detailing your interview. Be sure to include the following:

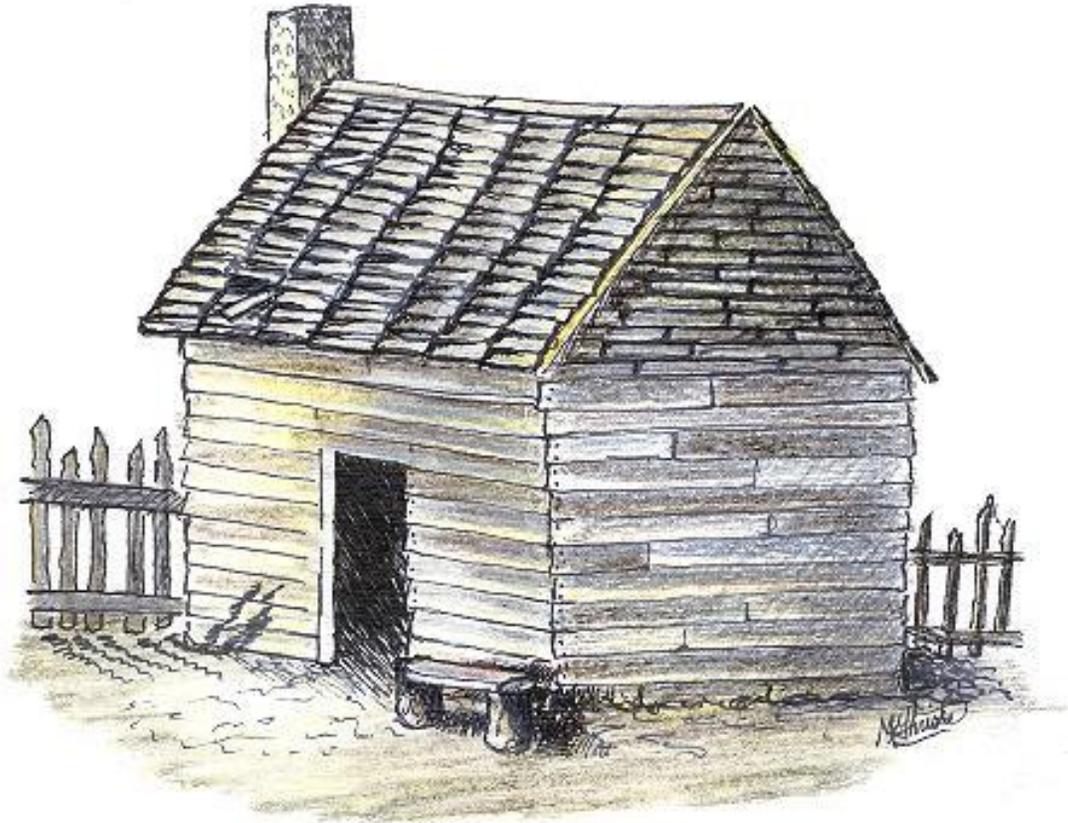
- the specialized skill that you have obtained and the costs and benefits of having that skill
- the effect that your running away will have on the plantation and its owner
- the enslaved person’s decision whether to run away and its costs and benefits

9. **Closure:** Have volunteers share their journal entries.

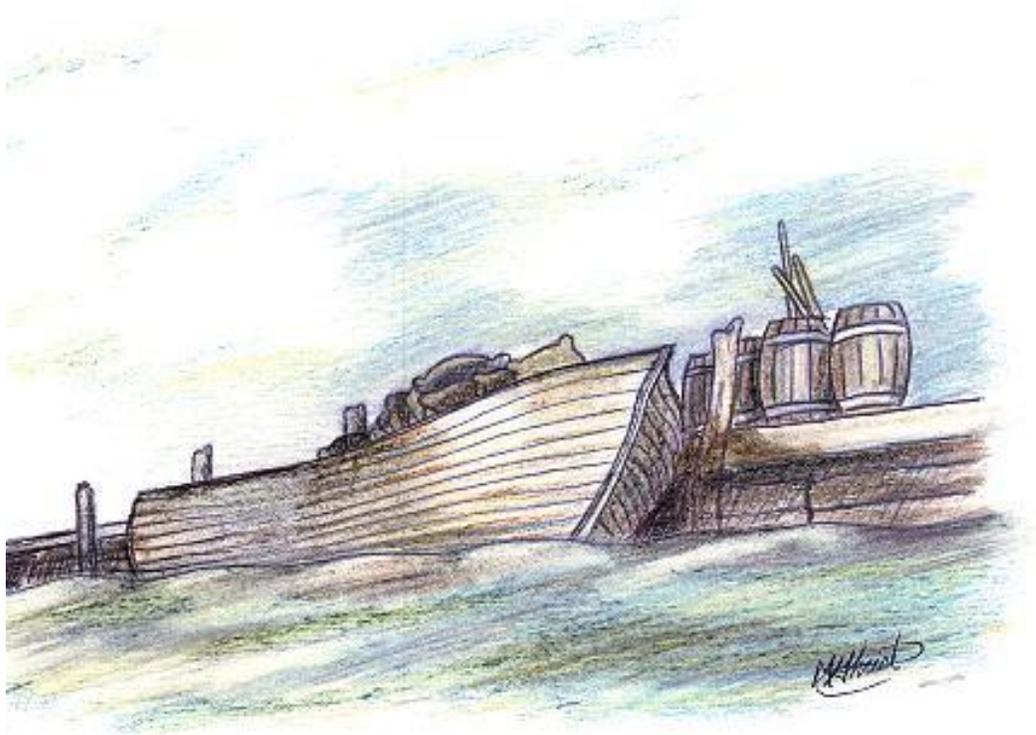
Plantation House



Miscellaneous Plantation Building



Plantation Boat Dock



ONE HUNDRED SPANISH DOLLARS REWARD.

RAN away from the subscriber's plantation, in Montgomery county, the 6th day of February last, a NEGRO MAN, named CAESAR, about thirty years of age, five feet five or six inches high, and well made, of a yellow complexion; he is an artful designing fellow, and I expect he will endeavor to impose himself on strangers as a free man, and probably may have got a pass as such. He understands something of the carpenters... business. I apprehend his design was, when he ran away, to join, as a recruit, either the enemy or the American army. Had on, when he went away, a cotton jacket and breeches, tow linen shirt, coarse shoes and stockings, and a tolerable good hat. Whoever takes up the said negro, and delivers him to me, at West-river, in Anne-Arundel county, near Annapolis, or secures him so that I may get him again shall, if taken up and secured in this state, receive fifty dollars, and if out of the state of Maryland the above reward, paid by

RICHARD COWMAN**DATE CREATED/PUBLISHED:** November 14, 1782**SOURCE:** Maryland Gazette Collection, MSA SC 2313**REPOSITORY:** Maryland State Archives<http://www.teachingamericanhistorymd.net/000001/000000/000101/html/t101.html>

THIRTY HARD DOLLARS REWARD.

Frederick Town, July 2, 1781

RAN away from the subscriber, living in Frederick-town Maryland, on the first instant, a negro man named NED BARNES, a likely sensible fellow, a shoemaker, about 35 years of age, about 5 feet 6 or 8 inches high; he carried with him a good deal of valuable cloathing, among which are a new light blue cloth coat and waistcoat, a pair of leather breeches, a pair of boots, a pair of neat shoes with silver buckles; it is probable he may have a pass and intends to join the British troops; it is suspected he went off on a likely roan horse. The above reward will be paid to any person bringing home or securing him in any goal; it is requested he may be searched and the money about him secured.

JOHN HANSON

DATE CREATED/PUBLISHED: July 12, 1781

SOURCE: Maryland Gazette Collection, MSA SC 2313

REPOSITORY: Maryland State Archives

<http://www.teachingamericanhistorymd.net/000001/000000/000101/html/t101.html>

FIVE POUNDS REWARD,

RAN away from the subscriber, living in Frederick county, near Bladensburgh, a likely mulatto fellow named James Mason. He is about 5 feet nine or 10 inches high, has short black hair curled behind, and is a straight well made active fellow, of about twenty-seven years of age. He understands a little of the blacksmith's business...: he had on, when he went away, a brown cloth coat, an old double breasted jacket, a pair of white [] or fustian breeches, a white shirt, a new hat with a white band and loop, and a pair of [] buckles in his shoes. As he is a sensible, artful fellow, it is probable he may have a forged pass, or a discharged indenture from some of his acquaintances, and may endeavour to pass as a freeman. Whoever takes up the said slave, and secures him in any jail so as I may get him again, shall have the above reward, and if brought home, their travelling expenses, paid by

WALTER BEALL

DATE CREATED/PUBLISHED: April 6, 1775**SOURCE:** Maryland Gazette Collection, MSA SC 2313**REPOSITORY:** Maryland State Archives

<http://www.teachingamericanhistorymd.net/000001/000000/000101/html/t101.html>

RUN away from the subscriber in Albemarle, a Mulatto slave called Sandy, about 35 years of age, his stature is rather low, inclining to corpulence, and his complexion light; he is ... something of a horse jockey; he is greatly addicted to drink, and when drunk is insolent and disorderly, in his conversation he swears much, and in his behaviour is artful and knavish. He took with him a white horse, much scarred with traces, of which it is expected he will endeavour to dispose; he also carried his shoemakers tools, and will probably endeavour to get employment that way. Whoever conveys the said slave to me, in Albemarle, shall have 40 s. reward, if taken up within the county, 4 l. if elsewhere within the colony, and 10 l. if in any other colony, from

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

DATE CREATED/PUBLISHED: Sept. 14, 1769

SOURCE: *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 14, 1769

<http://www.teachingamericanhistorymd.net/000001/000000/000101/html/t101.html>

January 16 1775.

RAN away from the subscriber, living in St. Mary's county, Maryland, on the 4th of November last, a mulatto man slave, named Tom, about fifty years of age, five feet nine or ten inches high, by trade a...cooper; he formerly did belong to Philip Key, Esq; at which time he resided chiefly at Beed's creek, and it is supposed that he is now harboured somewhere in that neighborhood; one of his knees is swelled, which causes him to limp. He has lost the fore finger of his left hand, it was cut off some years ago: had with him many good cloaths of different sorts, and a set of carpenter's tools; he is an artful deceitful villain, and may endeavour to pass for a free man. Whoever secures him in such a manner that I may have him again, shall receive six dollars reward, and if brought home, reasonable charges paid, by

JAMES JORDAN

DATE CREATED/PUBLISHED: January 16, 1775

SOURCE: Maryland Gazette Collection, MSA SC 2313

REPOSITORY: Maryland State Archives

<http://www.teachingamericanhistorymd.net/000001/000000/000101/html/t101.html>

Ran away from the subscriber, the 16th instant, a likely negro fellow named ANTHONY, about thirty years of age, of a yellowish complexion, and supposed to be nearly six feet high. He was seen in company with James M' Henry, and one Rogers at the Bowling Green, and a few days afterwards within a few miles of Portsmouth. From this information I am induced to believe that he was cajoled by these men to elope, who will use him as their servant till they find a convenient opportunity of selling him. He carried off a dusty coloured bay horse, worth about twenty pounds. This fellow is well acquainted with the business of a house servant, and also combs and shaves pretty well. He is extremely addicted to drinking - TWENTY POUNDS will be given to the person delivering the man and horse to the subscriber, or a sum proportionable to their respective value for either. It is said those men intended to Charlestown.

EDWARD CARTER. Fredericksburg, May 29, 1790.

Virginia Independent Chronicle
Richmond, June 9, 1790.

http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:8090/xslt/servlet/ramanujan.XSLTServlet?xml=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/vg1790.xml&xsl=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/display_ad.xsl&ad=v1790060013&print=yes

MOSSEY CREEK Iron Works, June 4, 1785. RUN away from the Subscriber yesterday, living in Augusta County, two negro men, [DICK](#), about 28 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, well set, and very black; has one crooked leg, occasioned by being broke, and walks very wide at the knees; ...the other named [ISAAC](#), about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, a straight well made fellow, and rather of a sallow colour, and about 26 or 27 years of age. He has for several years past worked with colliers, and is very good at that business. Any person or persons securing the said Slaves in any gaol so that I may get them again, shall have TEN POUNDS reward, or FIVE POUNDS for either, and if brought home, reasonable charges paid by HENRY MILLER

Virginia Gazette or American Advertiser
Richmond, July 9, 1785.

http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:8090/xslt/servlet/ramanujan.XSLTServlet?xml=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/vg1785.xml&xsl=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/display_ad.xsl&ad=v1785070024

RAN away from Dumfries on Patowmack River, Virginia, in March last, a Mulatto Man Slave, named Dick (tho' it is probable he may now assume another) Country-born, about 35 Years of Age, a well-made slim Fellow, very active, is much addicted to Liquor, and when drunk, stammers in in his Speech. Had on a good dark Bearskin Frock-Coat, and Cotton Breeches; but carried with him several other Cloaths. ...has also been employed in small Craft by Water. Mr. Fox of Fredericksburg, was formerly his Master, and as he has lived in that Town, and other public Places, most Part of his Life, has contracted a pretty general Acquaintance, and may by that Means be conveyed out of this Colony. He has been seen on board several Vessels in Rappahannock River, and on board of a Schooner bound to New York; but on being detected as a Runaway, he got clear, by swimming on Shore from the Vessel in Rappahannock. He has been outlawed, by which any person may lawfully kill him. I am informed he goes by the name of Jack Simpson, and has a forg'd Pass, pretending he has served as a Mulatto 31 Years, agreeable to the Laws of this Colony. It is hoped all Captains of Ships, or Commanders of Craft, will be cautious of how they entertain so notorious a Villain; for when he is drunk, he will steal any Thing. Whoever apprehends him, so that he may be secured in some Goal, and contrives me Notice of it, shall receive Forty Shillings; and if brought to me at Dumfries, a full Reward for their Trouble, and all reasonable Charges. ALLAN MACRAE.

Maryland Gazette
Annapolis, May 24, 1759.

http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:8090/xslt/servlet/ramanujan.XSLTServlet?xml=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/md1759.xml&xsl=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/display_ad.xsl&ad=m1759050001

Twenty Dollars Reward. RUN AWAY from the subscriber the 15th inst. in Charlotte county, a mulatto man, (almost white,) named WILL, about thirty five years of age, five feet ten or eleven inches high, has a small scar on his chin, very bushy hair, some of his fore teeth out, round shoulders and knockneed, has a large scar on his right side just below his ribs, occasioned by the stab of a knife, he...understands making of whiskey. He took with very good clothes, viz, a new blue home spun coat and breeches. I expect he will endeavor to pass as a free man. Whoever will bring the said slave to me shall receive the above reward, and for securing him in any public jail, half the above. EDWARD MOSELY. November, 1794.

Virginia Gazette and Weekly Advertiser (Nicolson),
Richmond, December 6, 1794

http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:8090/xslt/servlet/ramanujan.XSLTServlet?xml=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/vg1794.xml&xsl=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/display_ad.xsl&ad=v1794120056

Five Pounds Reward. RAN away from the Subscriber in Prince William County, two likely Mulatto Slaves, viz. CATE, a light Mulatto, about 22 years of age...SINAH, about 20 years of age, rather of a darker complexion than Cate, has a sunken bumpy face, a very unbidding look, has a decay and holes in two of her upper foreteeth, a sulky illnated countenance, well shaped, of the middle size, low forehead, and very bushy long hair: She took with her a pair of silk cuffs, some pieces of gauze, a white linen petticoat, a fine white shift, white linen enough for a shift and waistcoat, a black Virginia cloth petticoat, striped with white, a straw hat, covered and lined with black silk and trimmed with black gauze; had on a black striped Virginia cloth jacket, an osnabrug petticoat, and a black Virginia cloth ditto, which she wore under the other.---She has been brought up in the house, is a good seamstress...-----Whoever will deliver them to me at my house, or secure them in any gaol so that I get them again, shall receive the above reward, of Fifty Shillings, for either, paid by HENRY LEE. October 15, 1784.

Virginia Journal and Alexandria Advertiser
Alexandria, October 21, 1784

http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:8090/xslt/servlet/ramanujan.XSLTServlet?xml=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/vg1784.xml&xsl=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/display_ad.xsl&ad=v1784100094

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD. Stafford County, (Virginia) June 16, 1780. RAN away, from my plantations, in Loudon, a Negro man, named CHARLES, about 35 years of age, and is well known in this and the neighbouring states of Carolina and Maryland, and has waited on me for many years; he is a handsome, genteel, sensible fellow, not very black... a good barber... It is expected he will attempt to make towards Baltimore, or some other sea-port, and pass for a freeman, as he has a pass for that purpose. All masters of vessels and recruiting officers, are forewarned from entertaining him; and the above reward, together with all reasonable expences, will be given to any person, who will deliver him to me in Stafford county. THOMSON MASON

Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser
Baltimore, July 4, 1780.

http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:8090/xslt/servlet/ramanujan.XSLTServlet?xml=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/md1780.xml&xsl=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/display_ad.xsl&ad=m1780070003

Four Dollars Reward. RAN AWAY from the subscriber's, in Orange county, the last of September, NEGRO MOLLY, a lusty likely woman, about 41 or 42 years of age, rather dark complexion; she is a healthy, neat, industrious wench, a good cook...She was hired in Fredericksburg some years, and had a fellow of Mrs. Walker's as a husband, and was never known to misbehave or runaway until removed from there--I will give Four Dollars, besides what the law allows, for taking up said negro and bringing her home, or confining her in a convenient gaol and information given so that I get her again. She is for SALE, and may be had very low for Cash....

CHARLES TAYLOR.

Virginia Herald and Fredericksburg Advertiser
Fredericksburg, November 14, 1793

http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:8090/xslt/servlet/ramanujan.XSLTServlet?xml=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/vq1793.xml&xsl=/vcdh/xml_docs/slavery/ads/display_ad.xsl&ad=v1793110064

Run away about two months ago, from James Mills of this city, a Negro Man named Bolton, a short ill looking Fellow, about 30 years of Age, flat Nose, and Teeth blac with Tobacco, he is a chimney sweeper, and had but very ordinary clothes on when he went away. Whoever takes up the said Negro Man, and brings him to his Master, shall have three pounds Reward, and all Reasonable Charges paid by James Mills

New York Gazette
September 25, 1749

<http://www.radford.edu/~shepburn/web/Runaway%20Slave%20Advertisements.htm>

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 ...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

Virginia Gazette

<http://www.history.org/history/teaching/runaway.cfm>

150 DOLLARS REWARD!

ABOUT the of October past, [a] man who calls himself Moses Vest, left Florence and carried with him, a Negro Woman an[d] Child, belonging to me.... Mr. Vest is about 26 years old, weighs about one hundred and sixty five pounds, chunky built, dark eyes, stoop shouldered-- he wore about the time he went away, a blue fr[o]ck coa[t] and rode a large grey horse; he is a Stone-mason by trade; he came from Indiana opposite Louisville[,] Kentucky. I will give the above reward to any person, who will secure said Vest and NEGROES, so that I get them again, or one hundred dollars for the NEGROES alone.

NANCY ELLIS.

Florence Gazette
December 2, 1830

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~allauder/aa-runaways.htm>

Skilled Trades on the Plantation

Name of Trade:

Description of Trade:

Skills needed in that Trade:

Symbol of that Trade:

Plantation Occupations

Occupation	Skills Needed for the Occupation

Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Enslaved Peoples

Costs	Benefits

Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Enslaved Peoples
Answer Key

Costs	Benefits
<p>Makes them indispensable to plantation owner</p> <p>Higher status may make other enslaved peoples jealous</p>	<p>Learn skills that would help them run away (reading, writing, math)</p> <p>Learn geography of an area that would help them run away</p> <p>Higher status in plantation community</p> <p>Obtain money to buy freedom</p> <p>Learn communication skills</p> <p>More freedom of movement</p> <p>Ability to obtain “extras” for family (clothing, food, etc.)</p>

Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Plantation Owners

Costs

Benefits

Skilled Trades on the Plantation: Costs & Benefits to Plantation Owners
Answer Key

Costs	Benefits
Slaves obtain skills that can help them run away	Don't need to contract outsiders to build/create necessary things
Slaves may have money to buy freedom	Increased value of slaves
Slaves may have had more contact with "free world"	Hire slaves out to others (earn more money)
	Higher status may make slaves more "loyal"