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SLAVERY

Slavery is a system that allows someone, a 'master', to buy another person, called a 'slave', in the same way you can buy an animal or a computer. When Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote **Uncle Tom's Cabin**, slavery was normal in 15 American states. These were the Southern states, which produced cotton in large plantations. Plantation owners needed cheap workers, so people started bringing men, women and children from Africa to America. A man who had some land could buy slaves to work on the plantation or in his home. The slaves worked for no pay, they could not leave the plantation, and their children also belonged to their master. Their master could sell them when he wanted to, and he became rich thanks to their work.

When a man needs to use another person like an animal, he needs to believe that person is an animal. He needs to believe the other person is inferior to him. So he becomes a racist.





Slaves and Masters

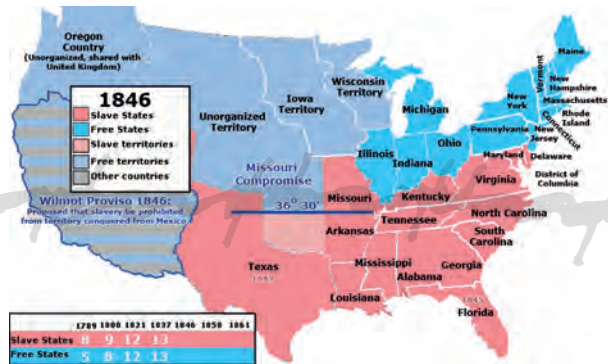
Masters gave the slaves food, clothes and a place to live. Some owners were kind to their slaves, but the slaves were slaves all the same: they received no pay for their work and they were not free to do what they wanted.

Other slave owners gave very little food to their slaves and the slaves lived in one-room wooden cabins*. Often many slaves shared one cabin, with no furniture.

The Underground Railway

Many slaves tried to escape* to the free states in the north using the Underground Railway. This was a system of secret meeting points, secret signs and songs, secret ways of getting from one place to another and safe houses. Free black people, Native Americans* and white people, helped escaped slaves to reach the north or Canada and become free.

Many American Presidents were slave owners, including the first President, George Washington. The 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, changed the US Constitution* and abolished* slavery in 1865.



GLOSSARY

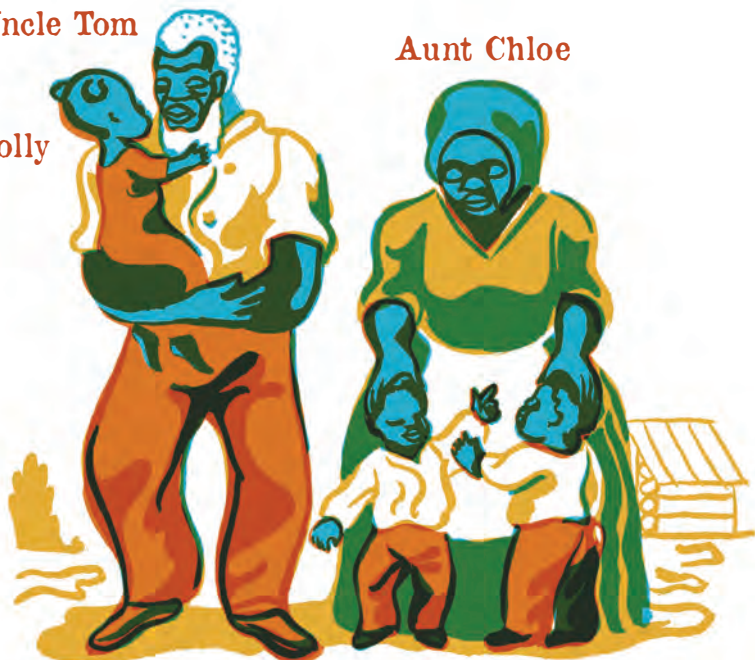
- **abolished:** ended
- **cabin:** house with one room
- **Constitution:** the rules that a government must follow
- **cotton:** plant that produces a white ball used to make fabric and clothes
- **escape:** run away
- **inferior:** less good
- **Native Americans:** the people who lived in America before white people arrived
- **owner:** person that something belongs to
- **plantation:** fields where farmers grow food or other plants

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

Uncle Tom

Aunt Chloe

Polly



Mose and Pete

Aunt Ophelia

Augustine
St Clare

Mammy

Marie



Eva

In the story Tom has three owners.
Who do you think they are?

Legree



Haley



Mr Shelby



BEFORE READING

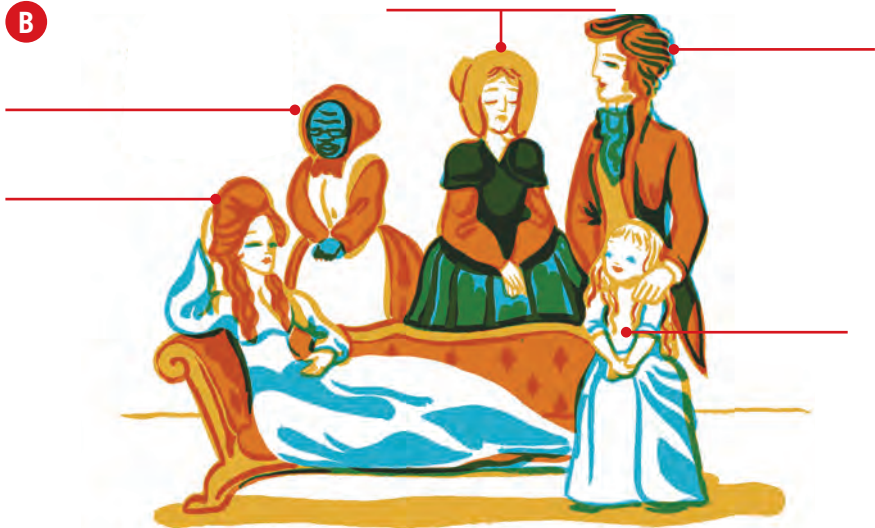
1 **MP3** Listen and write the names.

Mose and Pete Eva Marie Aunt Chloe
Aunt Ophelia Augustine St Clare Polly Tom Mammy

A



B





2  **Listen again and complete the sentences.**

- a** are Uncle Tom's sons.
- b** Uncle Tom's wife's name is
- c** is Uncle Tom's daughter.
- d** Eva's father name is
- e** is Eva's mother.
- f** is a slave in Eva's house.
- g** Eva's father's sister's name is
- h** is from Massachusetts.
- i** is from Louisiana.
- j** is from Kentucky.

3 **Look at the map on page 9. Who is from a slave state and who is from a free state?**

4 **What will happen in the story? Answer the questions.**

- a** Who do you think are the slaves in the story?
- b** Who are the masters?
- c** Who is Eva?
- d** Will Uncle Tom try to escape?
- e** Will the story have a happy ending?
- f** Why? Why not?

CHAPTER 1

1 Late in the afternoon of a cold day, two gentlemen were drinking in an big house in a town in Kentucky.

‘Haley, Tom is an excellent slave’. I’m sure he will sell for a good price. He’s honest and he makes sure that my farm works like a clock,’ said Mr Shelby.

‘What do you mean, honest? He’s black,’ said Haley.

‘I mean, Tom is a really good person. Last autumn I sent him to do business for me and bring home five hundred dollars. And he came back with the money. Somebody said to him, “Why didn’t you escape to Canada?” and he replied, “Master expected me to come back, so I did.” I am sorry I have to sell him, but I need the money.’

‘I understand,’ said Haley, ‘but don’t worry, I’m a good trader. Some traders take a woman’s child from her arms and sell the child while the mother is screaming. But I think that’s very bad for business. Some mothers become crazy and die, and the trader loses a thousand dollars. When you’re selling children, you need to take the mother away first, so she doesn’t see. *Then* you sell the child. That’s how I do it.’

Then he explained, ‘You must remember that these slaves aren’t like white people. White people expect to keep their children and wives. But good masters teach their slaves that they can’t expect anything.’

‘I’m afraid I’m not a good master, then,’ said Mr Shelby.

‘I know,’ said Haley. ‘Here in Kentucky you are too kind to your slaves, but that’s not good. When you sell them, they often go to work on plantations, and then it’s harder for them.’

GLOSSARY

- **escape:** run away
- **expected:** thought something will happen
- **loses:** makes less money
- **Master:** man who has slaves
- **plantations:** very large farms
- **screaming:** shouting
- **slave:** person who belongs to another person and is not free
- **trader:** person who buys and sells slaves

Mr Shelby was a kind man and he looked after his slaves. But now he was in debt• and he needed money, so he was going to sell Tom.



SLAVE OR MASTER

Who is the slave and who is the master?

Write down their names.

What does the master want to do with the slave?

Uncle Tom• lived in a small log cabin• near his master's house with his wife, Aunt Chloe, and their three children. There was a garden in front where Aunt Chloe grew fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Inside there was only one room. In one corner there was a bed, covered with a white sheet, and a rug• on the floor. This corner was the living room. In the other corner was another bed. This corner was the bedroom. There was also a fireplace and a table in the room: this was the kitchen.

Aunt Chloe was baking a cake on the fire.

Two young boys, Mose and Pete, were playing with their baby sister, Polly. Uncle Tom was sitting at the table. He was a large, strong man with a kind sensible• face and an air of dignity•.

He was very busy. He was trying to write the alphabet on a small blackboard. Mr Shelby's son, young Master George, was teaching him.

GLOSSARY

- **dignity:** respect; kindness
- **in debt:** not having money to pay large bills
- **log cabin:** a one-room house made of wood
- **rug:** a soft piece of material used to cover the floor
- **sensible:** that thinks and chooses well
- **Uncle Tom:** everyone knew Tom as Uncle Tom



ym
6

‘This is wonderful!’ said Aunt Chloe. ‘This boy’s only thirteen, but he can read and write! And then he comes here and teaches us!’

‘Aunt Chloe, I’m hungry,’ said George. ‘Is that cake ready?’

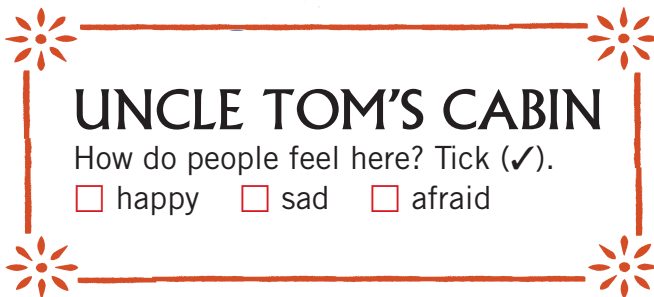
‘It is now, dear,’ said Aunt Chloe, and she gave everyone a slice•.

Uncle Tom picked up Polly and began dancing with her. Soon Master George and the boys were dancing with them, too.

‘Stop,’ said Aunt Chloe. ‘The people for the meeting will be here soon.’

And they started to get the room ready for the religious meeting they had at Uncle Tom’s cabin every week. Soon the cabin was full of people of all ages. They sang beautiful songs, they read from the Bible and they prayed together.

However, while this was happening in Tom’s cabin, something very different was happening in his master’s house.



UNCLE TOM'S CABIN
How do people feel here? Tick (✓).
 happy sad afraid

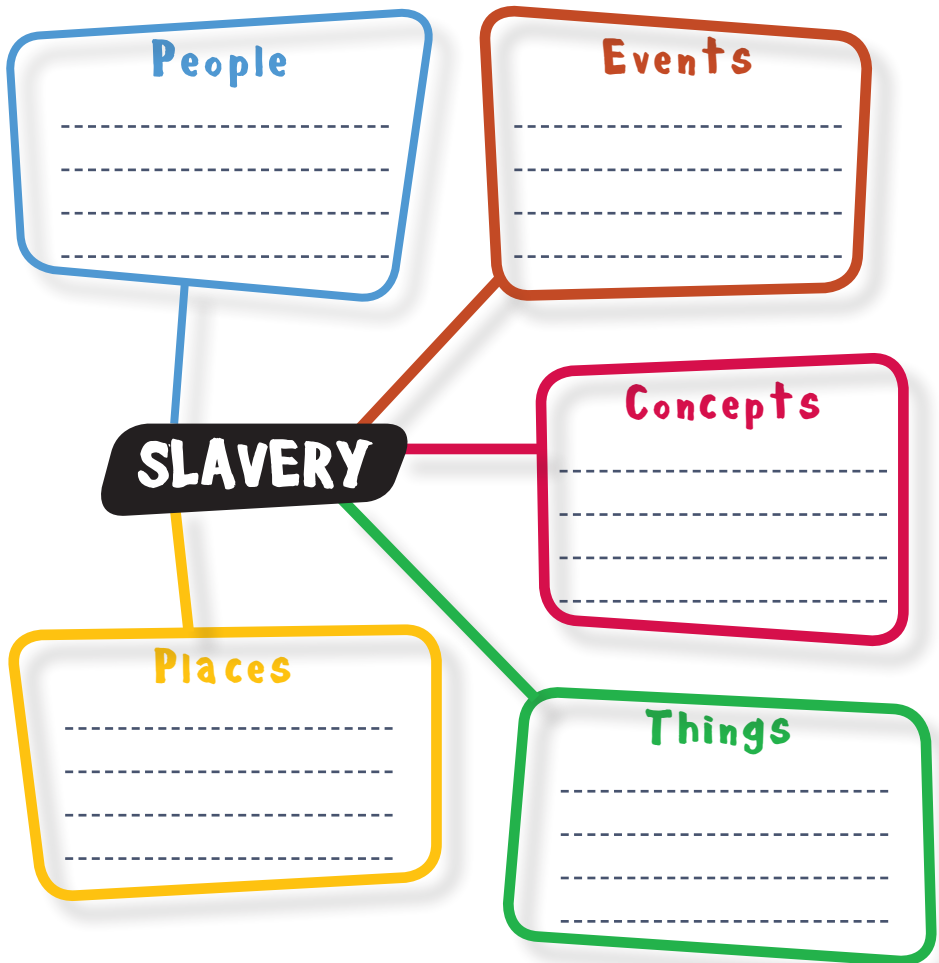
GLOSSARY

- **slice:** (here) piece of cake

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Organise these words in a mind map.

cotton auction freedom whip slave chains
trader death plantation sale law
money master's house rights cabin master
whipping house lawyer emancipation



K A2 Key English Test Listening Part 1

1 **MP3** Listen and choose the correct picture.

