



Slavery is a system, in which a person or a group of people is seen as a living possession<sup>1</sup>. Enslaved<sup>2</sup> people were forced to work according to their 'owner's' instructions or else they were punished cruelly<sup>3</sup>. They had no human rights.

<sup>1</sup>lebender Besitz, <sup>2</sup>versklavt, <sup>3</sup>grausam bestraft

In the USA, slavery began in 1619 when 20 enslaved Africans were forcefully<sup>4</sup> brought into Virginia. During the 18th century, more than 7 million Africans were taken into slavery. Many died during the horrific journeys on the ships<sup>5</sup> from Africa or because of the cruel working conditions<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>4</sup>gewaltsam, <sup>5</sup>grauenhafte Schiffsreisen, <sup>6</sup>unmenschliche Arbeitsbedingungen

A lot of enslaved people tried to fight back or run away. It took more than 240 years and a Civil War until slavery legally ended when the 13th Amendment<sup>7</sup> to the US Constitution<sup>8</sup> was passed<sup>9</sup> in 1865.



<sup>7</sup>Zusatzartikel, <sup>8</sup>Verfassung der USA, <sup>9</sup>verabschiedet (Gesetz)

- 1 Think about it first and then talk to your neighbor. Try to say it in English, please. Take notes in your folders.
  - a) How do you feel when you look at the pictures?
  - b) What comes to your mind when you read that enslaved people had no human rights? What are human rights?
  - c) Who enslaved the African people? Why?
  - d) Look at the first picture again. What could the enslaved people bring with them?