

Sharecropping Lesson Plan

Central Historical Question:

How accurate is the textbook's description of sharecropping?

Materials:

- Overhead of Sharecropper Photograph
- Classroom Textbook Excerpt on Sharecropping
- Copies of Sharecropper Contract
- Copies of Guiding Questions

Plan of Instruction:

1. Focus Activity: Describe what you see in this picture. What is this a picture of? Why do you think that?
2. Share Out:
 - Explain to students that this is not a picture of enslaved people on a plantation, but rather of sharecroppers working on a plantation in Georgia in 1898.
 - Explain that the goal today is for students to figure out what sharecropping was.
3. In pairs, students read the classroom textbook's section on sharecropping.

Ask student for a gist of their understanding of sharecropping.
4. Hand out Sharecropper Contract:
 - In pairs, students read the contract and answer the Guiding Questions.
 - As a class, review questions.
5. Discussion:
 - According to students, did the textbook give an accurate portrayal of life under sharecropping?
 - How did the contract expand or challenge the description in the textbook?

Citations

Photograph:

In the cotton fields of Georgia. 1897. Photographed by T.W. Ingersoll. From the Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3g07992/>.

Contract:

Grimes Family Papers (#3357), 1882; Held in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

This lesson was written by Abby Reisman and Brad Fogo in 2009.