

(B) African Resistance to Slavery in the Americas

1630. (Pernambuco, Brazil) Over ten thousand Africans rebel against European control and slavery and establish the independent African Republic of Palmares in Brazil. In 1697 they were finally defeated by Portugal.
1734. (Jamaica) Maroons living in the interior of Jamaica battle British forces. After five years, they are declared legally free forever.
1793. (Haiti) Under the leadership of Toussaint L'Ouverture, the African population of Haiti declares independence, abolishes slavery and defeats France and Napoleon's efforts to reestablish control.
1800. Gabriel Prosser's Rebellion (Virginia) Over 1,000 slaves meet outside of Richmond, Virginia and march on the city. The group is dispersed by a violent storm. The state militia learns of the planned rebellion. Thirty-five leaders are captured and executed.
- 1810-1860. As many as 100,000 enslaved Africans escape north to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Most are from border states like Kentucky.
1822. Denmark Vesey's Rebellion (South Carolina) An estimated 9,000 freemen and slaves plan a rebellion. The plot is uncovered, 139 people are arrested and 47 are executed.
1831. Nat Turner's Rebellion (Virginia) Sixty whites, members of planter families, are killed. State and federal troops overpowered an armed rebel force. More than one hundred rebels are killed and 16 are captured and executed, including Nat Turner.
1831. (Jamaica) Sam Sharpe, a literate slave preacher, leads an eight day rebellion that spreads across the entire island. Sharpe was captured and hung. The rebellion led to the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.
1835. (Florida) The Seminoles, including descendants of escaped Africans who joined the tribe, resist United States efforts to force removal to Oklahoma for eight years. They are ultimately forced to move.
1839. (Connecticut) Enslaved Africans capture the Spanish slave ship Amistad under the leadership of Cinque. They are declared free by the U.S. Supreme Court.
1851. (Pennsylvania) Five free Blacks prevent the arrest of an escaped slave at Christiana, PA. Thirty-six Blacks and five whites, most of them bystanders, are charged with treason for violating the Fugitive Slave law and rebelling against the government. Events are heavily publicized in the press, including *The New York Times*. The leader of the group escapes to Canada. The other people are found not guilty of treason and other charges were dropped. The trial helped to convince Southerners that their "property rights" would never be respected by the North.
1859. (Virginia) John Brown, a white abolitionist, attacked the U.S. arsenal at Harpers Ferry with a force that included 12 whites and five Blacks. Brown and his supporters were captured, tried, convicted and executed.
- 1862-1865. Approximately 200,000 Africans serve in the Union army and navy. Nearly 40,000 die as they battle to preserve the union and end slavery.

Questions

1. Many of these events did not take place in the United States. Do you think they should be studied in a United States history class? Explain.
2. Select the three events that you believe had the greatest impact on slavery in the United States. Explain the reasons for your selections.

The African Burial Ground Project, 6 World Trade Center, Room 239, New York, N.Y. 10048

In May, 1991, the first human remains from the 18th century African Burial Ground were uncovered in lower Manhattan when the U.S. General Services Administration was preparing to build a federal office tower at Broadway and Duane Streets. The African American Burial Ground may have served as a final resting place for as many as 20,000 Africans, both enslaved and free. Skeletal remains and artifacts have been examined by teams of scientists at Howard University and by the projects staff. The African Burial Ground Project provides site tours, historical slide presentations, and publishes a newsletter. For more information, contact NYABG@worldnet.att.net or call 212/264-6949.