

CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS: LESSON 3: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discussion Questions

1. The first reading talks about how poor Whites had little in common with rich White southerners (also known as the planter class).
 - a. What do you think poor White people thought they would gain by fighting to make sure slavery continued?
 - b. If someone wanted to convince poor Whites that ending slavery was in their best interest, what should they say?
2. Northerners had different feelings about the problems poor Whites faced. Some had sympathy and helped them. Others wanted to control them while some did not care at all.
 - a. What do you think about this?
 - b. Does it change the way you thought about the North and the Union?
3. How do the enslaved people's accounts challenge what John C. Calhoun and other Southerners said about enslaved people benefiting from slavery?

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Writing Prompt

Take the perspective of a poor White southerner living in a Confederate state during the War. You are an abolitionist (meaning you are against slavery). Your family, though, supports "honor" and slavery. Page | 2

Write a letter to a family member that challenges that person's position and reasoning while explaining your own position against slavery. Ultimately, you want to convince your family member that fighting for the South in the Civil War is not in their best interest. Your letter should try to convince them that they should help the North instead of the South. Make sure to consider this family member's perspective and take the time to explain why the benefits from ending slavery outweighs the benefits from keeping it.