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**Lesson Title:**  
A Slave's Letter: Daily Life in Slavery

**Level:**  
11<sup>th</sup> grade, American History

**Goal:**  
Students will understand the daily life of a slave on a plantation.

**Objective:**  
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to write a RAFT.

**Standards:**

**Activity Type:** Teacher-led activity

**Materials:** Paper and Pencil/Ink

### Pre-visit Activity:

- Students are shown (1) to (3) pictures of slaves on the plantation.
- The students are asked not to analyze the pictures yet but to tell me what they see in the picture specifically.
- Students will verbalize every detail of each picture exhausting all responses from students. The teacher can opt to write responses on the board
- Students will be asked to write down on paper the phrases I am , I hear, I feel.
- Students will fill in the blanks, for example: I am a slave boy, I feel pain under my feet, I hear other slaves singing.
- Answers will vary and no answer is wrong (students choose to focus on one of the historic pictures for the writing portion).

### Plantation Visit:

- Teacher brings copies of the historic photos or requests them from the ranger staff.
- Students compare the photos with the modern scene.
- Students listen to the teacher read a slave narrative describing work or home life for slaves.
- Students verbally take turns doing the phrases I am, I hear, I fell.

### Post-visit Activity:

Students will write a RAFT which stands for:

R--for Role  
A--for Audience  
F--for Format  
T--for Topioc

Role: You are a (16) year old slave boy or girl living on the Kingsley Plantation.

Audience: Your audience is your adult sister who is a free black in the north (Pennsylvania).

Format: Format is a letter.

Topic: Write a letter to your sister explaining in detail what daily life is like on the Kingsley Plantation.

### Closing:

Have student read their letters with a partner of aloud to the class.