



VOCABULARY

“cottonocracy” the wealthy families in the South whose money came from the production of cotton

slave codes laws meant to keep enslaved African Americans from running away or rebelling

extended family a family unit in which several generations live together

SUMMARY

Southern society was made up of five main groups. (See diagram.) Planters were the smallest group in number, but they had the most influence. They were called the **“cottonocracy,”** and they made large fortunes growing cotton and other crops with slave labor. Small farmers were the largest group. Some small farmers owned a few slaves. Poor whites owned neither land nor slaves.

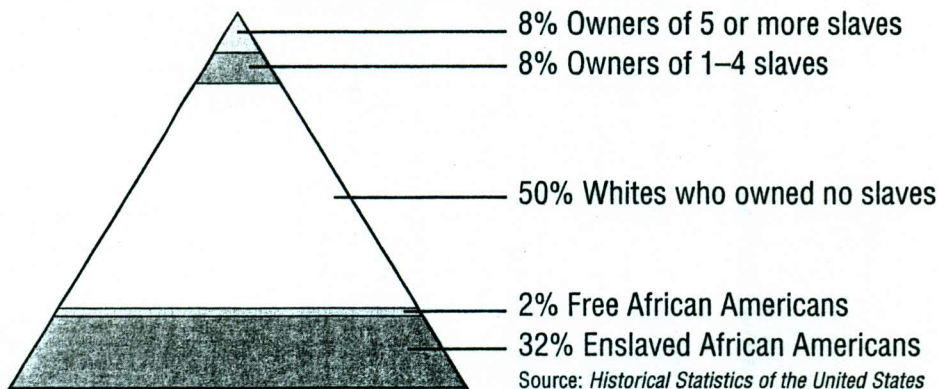
Free African Americans lived under harsh laws. For example, they were not allowed to vote or travel. Enslaved African Americans made up one third of the population in the South. Most worked in the fields, clearing land and planting and harvesting crops. Some slaves worked at skilled jobs such as carpentry. Others worked as house servants.

Slaves worked long hours, usually under harsh conditions. Sometimes families were separated. Strict laws, called **slave codes**, made it illegal for slaves to learn to read and write or to own guns.

Enslaved people tried to ease the hardships of slavery. They struggled to keep their families together. On large plantations, **extended families** could stay together. They also kept some African traditions. Many drew hope from Christianity.

African Americans resisted slavery in many ways. Many attempted to escape. Only a few succeeded. Some people, like Nat Turner in 1831, organized violent rebellions against slavery. However, rebellions were not common. White planters were so powerful that slave revolts had almost no chance of success.

SOUTHERN SOCIETY IN 1860



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REVIEW

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- What were some ways African Americans struggled against slavery?
- Diagram Skills** What percentage of people in the South were enslaved? What percentage were whites who owned no slaves?