Starter: Read the slave laws – which do you think are true and which are false?

- Husbands may be sold from their wives.
- Children may be sold from their mothers.
- Slaves are not to be taught to read and write.
- Slaves cannot own property.
- Slave testimonies cannot be used in court against white people.
- Slaves are not allowed to travel.
- Slaves caught trying to run away will be branded with an iron.
- Slaves cannot gather together in groups.
- Slaves cannot carry weapons.
Passive resistance- means peaceful non-violent means to resist something or someone

Active resistance- means to forcibly and with violence resist someone or something
1. If you were kidnapped and taken far from your home. Would you…

a. Try to escape no matter what the cost?
b. Wait for help to come?
c. Make your escape if the opportunity arises?
2. It becomes clear to you that your kidnappers are not going to return you to your home. Do you.....

a. Resign yourself to your fate?
b. Make a do or die attempt to escape?
c. Plan ways of surviving until the chance of escape arises?
3. It also becomes clear that even if you do escape your kidnappers clutches that you will be escaping in to a dangerous foreign land from which you can not return home. Do you...

a. Escape in spite of the difficulties?
b. Stay with the kidnappers because they at least feed you?
c. Stay but cause as much disruption as possible without getting caught?
4. You are part of a large group of people who have been kidnapped. Some of your group decides to escape. Do you...

a. Refuse to join them but wish them luck?
b. Join them in the attempt?
c. Tell the kidnappers about the plan so they will favour you more?
5. Most of the kidnapped people are fighting the kidnappers who they outnumber. Do you?

a. Stay on the kidnappers’ side because you know that when they restore order they will punish those who fought?

b. Keep out of the way and watch to see which side is winning before choosing whom to fight with?

c. Take up arms against your kidnappers?
What would you do?

- Give yourself the correct score next to each answer
- Add them all up to give yourself a total

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• You are the sort of person who wants to live and being alive is the most important point for you. As a result, you will tend to go along with whoever is in control. In order to survive you will go as far as to tell on others, to safeguard your life and possessions.

• Obedient Slave
• Your natural instinct is to survive but you have ideas about how you would like to live. You are a realist and are prepared to work slowly for the things you want, however if the opportunity arises for you to bring about changes you want you are prepared to take risks.

• Passive Resistor
• You are one of life’s adventurers and free spirits. You are not prepared to compromise your freedom and will fight no matter what the odds to regain your freedom.

• Active Resistor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active Resistance</th>
<th>Passive Resistance</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Poisoning the master</td>
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<td>• Pretending to be mad/ill</td>
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<td>• Running Away</td>
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<td>• Physical Fighting</td>
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<td>• Working Slowly</td>
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<td>• Arson</td>
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<td>• Injuring Plantation Animals/Crops</td>
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<td>• Slave women taunting the slave owners/overseers</td>
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<td>• Rebelling</td>
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<td>• Sabotage machinery</td>
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<td>• Ruin crops</td>
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<td>• Blunt tools</td>
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<td>• Kill the owners and take over the plantation</td>
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<td>• Kill yourself (slave owner has lost money)</td>
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<td>• Escape/run away to the North (find the underground</td>
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<td>railroad)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Take over the slave ship and sail it back to Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Post yourself in a box to the North</td>
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</table>
What type of resistance?

• A slave owner warned other owners never to delay the punishment of a slave......for if you do he will go hang himself to avoid the punishment.
• Edward Long in 1774 Slaves react against the overseers.....by messing up his plans, purposely misunderstanding his orders .. until he gets sick of them and resigns from his job.
• L Peytraud, 1897 It did not take clever medical training to know that glass, pounded very fine and mixed with food could kill as well as poison.
• William Hickley These slaves plague my life by faking illness for the purpose of getting out of working.
Punishment

• Running away was a risky business as a slave. If caught the punishment was likely to be having the letter ‘R’ branded on the cheek or the removal of an ear.
• Some slaves were sold to masters who treated them reasonably well. However some owners had a reputation for cruelty. The power of masters over their slaves was virtually unlimited.

• Even the ‘best’ slave owners sometimes used the whip to punish their slaves.
• Flogging of up to 75 lashes was common. On many occasions, planters branded, stabbed, shackled, tortured, maimed, crippled, mutilated and castrated their slaves. Thousands of slaves were flogged so badly that they were permanently scarred.
• ‘Africans are nothing but brutes. They will love you better for whipping, whether they deserve it or not.’

- A plantation owner in the nineteenth century describes how he treats slaves.
Why Punish?

- Obedience
- Quicker working
- Exert Authority
- Deterrents

- ‘Africans are nothing but brutes. They will love you better for whipping, whether they deserve it or not.’ A Slave Owner
Task:

Imagine that you are a slave living on a plantation. Write a conversation script between yourself and another slave, including details of the following:

• The conditions and how you feel about them
• Ways you could resist, and possible consequences
• Factors preventing you from resisting
‘Stretch’: Underline every precise historical word that you have included in your conversation script.

Up to 10 words – include 5 more
Up to 15 words – how many adjectives? Check you have at least 8.
Up to 20 words – have you supported with precise facts? If not, include 3.