



Slavery is a system, in which a person or a group of people is seen as a living possession¹. Enslaved² people were forced to work according to their 'owner's' instructions or else they were punished cruelly³. They had no human rights.

¹lebender Besitz, ²versklavt, ³grausam bestraft

In the USA, slavery began in 1619 when 20 enslaved Africans were forcefully⁴ brought into Virginia. During the 18th century, more than 7 million Africans were taken into slavery. Many died during the horrific journeys on the ships⁵ from Africa or because of the cruel working conditions⁶.

⁴gewaltsam, ⁵grauenhafte Schiffsreisen, ⁶unmenschliche Arbeitsbedingungen

A lot of enslaved people tried to fight back or run away. It took more than 240 years and a Civil War until slavery legally ended when the 13th Amendment⁷ to the US Constitution⁸ was passed⁹ in 1865.



⁷Zusatzartikel, ⁸Verfassung der USA, ⁹verabschiedet (Gesetz)

- 1 Think about it first and then talk to your neighbor. Try to say it in English, please. Take notes in your folders.
 - a) How do you feel when you look at the pictures?
 - b) What comes to your mind when you read that enslaved people had no human rights? What are human rights?
 - c) Who enslaved the African people? Why?
 - d) Look at the first picture again. What could the enslaved people bring with them?