

American Slavery
A Very Short Introduction
Heather Andrea Williams

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- How did the Atlantic Slave Trade begin and why?
- Why were Africans enslaved in America? Why not Europeans or Native Americans?
- What role did northern colonies and states play in slavery?
- How could Africans and African Americans accept Christianity when it was the religion of their enslavers? What did Christianity mean to them?
- How could white Americans, who prided themselves on cherishing freedom and equality, hold other humans as slaves?
- If slaves were oppressed, how could they create music and other cultural productions?
- What methods did people use to resist their enslavement?
- The year 1831 proved to be quite significant in the history of American slavery. Why?
- Why didn't slaves simply overthrow whites, especially in places such as South Carolina where they were in the majority?
- What was the relationship between the development of slavery and the development of racism in America?

Other books by the author

- Williams, H. E, *Self-taught: African American Education in Slavery and Freedom* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007)
- Williams, H. E, *Help Me to Find My People: The African American Search for Family Lost in Slavery* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012)

Further Reading

Please refer to the further reading section at the back of *American Slavery: A Very Short Introduction*.