

A Piece of History

What are sources of evidence?

Any leftover of the past can be considered a source of evidence. Sources provide us with information to help us understand the past. Some examples of sources of evidence are: art, sculpture, photographs, letters, stories, diaries and artefacts such as clothing, weapons and cooking utensils.

Carefully read the extract below, thinking about what information it gives us about slavery.

Write your ideas for each source into the table.

The text shown below is taken from a newspaper advertisement which highlights a sad period in history. Read the advertisement carefully, then answer the questions.

FOR SALE

I will sell by public auction on Tuesday of next Court, being the 29th of November, Eight Valuable Family Servants, consisting of one . . . Man, a first- rate field hand, one No. 1 Boy, 17 years of age, a trusty house servant, one excellent Cook, one House-Maid, and one Seamstress. The balance are under 12 years of age. They are sold for no fault, but in consequence of my going to reside overseas.

North Carolina, October 28, 1859

Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What is for sale?

2. Why are they being sold?

3. Who do you think wrote the advertisement?

4. Why was the advertisement written?

5. What does the advertisement tell us about life in the 1800s for a black person?

6. What questions would you ask the auctioneer?

7. What questions would you ask the slaves?

8. What type of family do you think would buy the slaves?

9. Why would people want to buy the slaves in the advertisement?

10. What strategies does the advertisement use to try to 'sell' the slaves?
