

PRINCE AMONG SLAVES

VIEWING GUIDE



UPF

UNITY PRODUCTIONS FOUNDATION

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FILM:

Abdul Rahman was captured in 1788 and sold into slavery in the American South. He endured the horrific Middle Passage and ended up the “property” of a poor and nearly illiterate planter from Natchez, Mississippi, named Thomas Foster.

According to one of the film’s producer’s Abdul Rahman survived the harsh ordeals of slavery through the love of his family and his deep abiding faith. As you watch this film, think about how this became evident.

USING THE VIEWING GUIDE:

The Prince Among Slaves Viewing Guide that will help you record information about Abdul Rahman’s life, and give you a place to record your reactions to what you see.

The left-hand side of the journal contains questions for you to answer during and after the film.

The right-hand side of the journal should be used to record your reactions to the film. It contains a series of prompts for you to respond to.

LEFT SIDE

Where and when does this story begin?

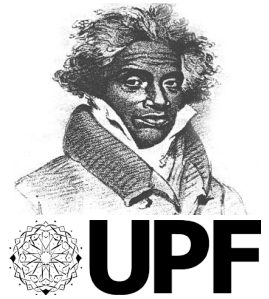
Describe Abdul Rahman's life in Futa Jallon before he was taken to the United States.

Who ambushed Rahman and his men?

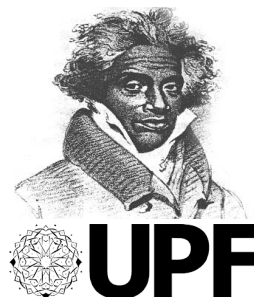
Why were they dragged to the sea?

RIGHT SIDE

Draw a sketch of Abdul as he returned home below.



The North Atlantic slave trade was the largest forced migration in human history – draining away some 12 million people in 400 years.

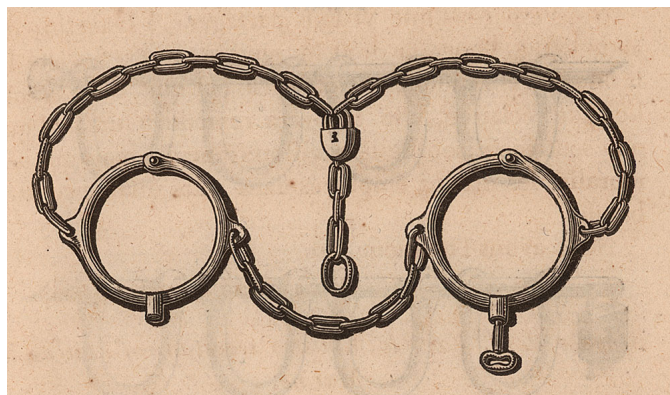


Explain the meaning of the following quotation:

"Africans themselves became the currency of choice for Europeans."

How do you think Abdul felt when he was dragged to the ship?

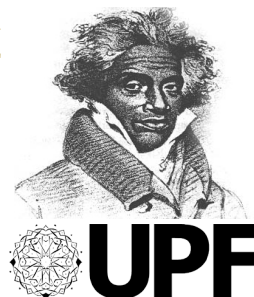
How do you think he felt when he realized he was being sold as a slave?



Source: <http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/returnKeyword.php?keyword=ships>

"What you are essentially doing is you are removing the identity of an individual and you are giving him a very different identity- one that you as a slave owner choose and this communicates very effectively that the person is now a slave... the person is now chattel...the person is now someone who is owned."

What indignities did the slaves suffer on the ship?



Describe the sounds of the slave ship.

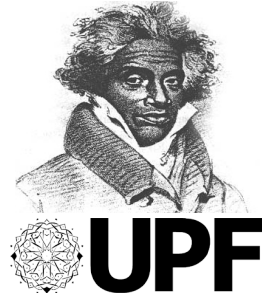
Slaveholders forced the slaves to learn English, and stripped them of their identities. Many of the slaves were Muslim, and they were kept from practicing their religion. Those who resisted were severely punished. Abdul's hair, a sign of nobility, was cut off. How do you think it must have felt to be kept from practicing one's religion? What does this do to a person's sense of identity?



Describe what you learned about Thomas Foster.



An important change occurred in Rahman when he escaped from the plantation. Describe what happened.



When Abdul first came to Nachez, he was amazed that someone with as much money as Mr. Foster had to live in the wilderness. Describe the culture and government that Abdul left behind in Futa Jallon in West Africa.

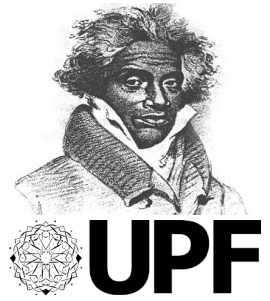
Describe how the following quotation from the Koran applied to Abdul's new life with Isabella: "We strengthen their hearts with patience."

How did Abdul contribute to the plantation's success? Where had he learned the skills he used?

What happened when John Cox recognized Abdul?

Describe the sounds of plantation life.

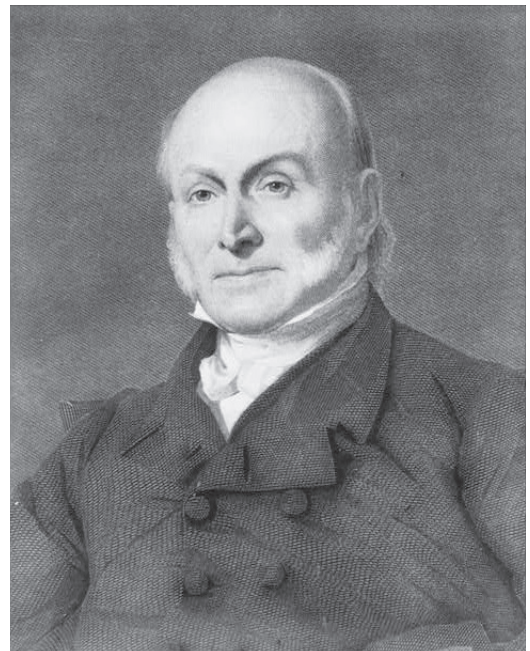
What event made Rahman finally send a letter to his homeland?



How did Adam's refusal to help affect Rahman's spirit?

How did Andrew Marschalk publicize Rahman's story?

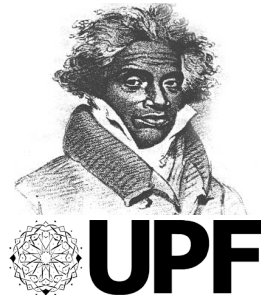
Why do you think Foster refused Cox's offer to free Rahman?



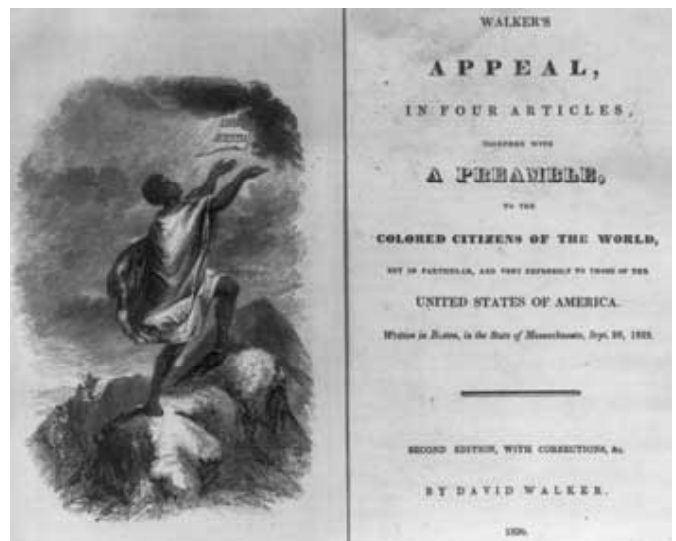


When he was granted his freedom, where did Rahman travel? What was his primary motivation?

How did you feel about Rahman misrepresenting himself as he tried to raise funds to free his children?



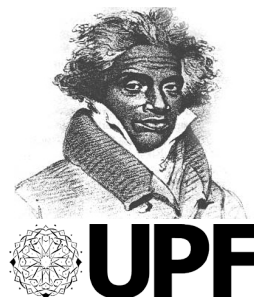
Although antislavery advocates in Boston helped him, ultimately they were not able to raise funds enough to free his children, and Abdul and Isabella had to return to Africa without them. How do you imagine they felt?





Artemus Gay: A descendant of Abdul Rahman

The film ends with a 2006 reunion. Whose story was most compelling to you? Why?



What will you remember most from viewing this film?