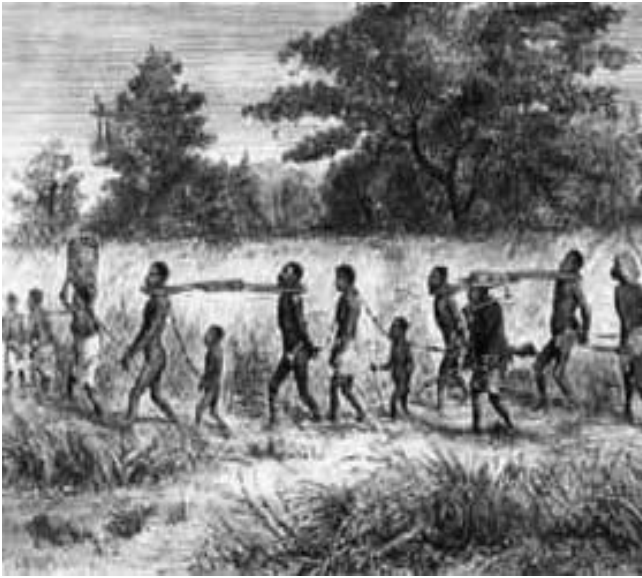


# I Slavery in the USA





In the USA there were about 1,300,000 black slaves in the middle of the nineteenth century. Only about 200,000 blacks were free. In states like Virginia, half of its total population were slaves.

Slaves had no civil law, they could be sold to work on white people's lands and in their homes. Slaves were bought and sold like animals. Husbands were separated from their wives, children from their parents. They could not choose where they lived or what work they did. They had no freedom: they belonged to their owners who worked them much too hard. They were not given enough food and they were often beaten, sometimes to death.

Some white people wanted to stop slavery because they thought that it was wrong for one man to own another man.

The northern states of America abolished slavery early in the nineteenth century, but in the southern states slavery continued. In 1861 the American Civil War followed. After four years of fighting, the northern states won. Just before the end of the war, in 1863, slavery was abolished in the Proclamation of Emancipation.

Martin Luther King. Logman Famous Lives. Elementary.

Alejandro Márquez Ojeda and Rafael Sánchez-Arjona. 4º ESO A.