Basic US History

Unit 5 – The Civil War

Census Quest: Statistical Information on Slavery

*FYI: The first US Census was conducted in 1790.*

**Directions: Use the Census Data sheets to answer the questions below.**

1. How many slaves were in South Carolina in 1790?

2. Which four states had the greatest number of slaves in 1790?

3. How many slaves were in each of these four states, respectively? In total?

4. Which South Carolina county had the most slaves?

5. How many South Carolina slave holders had holdings of 100 or more slaves in 1790?

6. In 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, which four states had the greatest number of slaves?

7. How many slaves were in each of these four states, respectively? In total?

*In 1800 Thomas Jefferson was elected president by a very close margin. Some people argue that if not for the “three-fifths clause” in the U.S. Constitution, Jefferson may not have won that election. Remember: the three-fifths clause allowed slaves, who could not vote, to be counted as part of a state's total population (by multiplying the number of slaves in a state by 3/5).*

8. Using the 1790 Census, which set the number of votes each state would have in the electoral college for the 1800 election, how many slaves lived in Thomas Jefferson's home state of Virginia?

9. If you multiply the number of slaves in Virginia by 3/5, how much did that increase the population of the state, for the purposes of representation?

10. Harriet Jacobs published “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl” in 1861, while she was living in Cornwall, New York, which is in Orange County. According to the 1860 census, how many aggregate free colored persons lived in Orange County, New York?