The Simple AP® African American Studies Unit 2 Cheat Sheet

2.1–2.3 Explorers & the Slave Trade

African Explorers in the Americas

Juan Garrido: free African conquistador w/ the Spanish; petitioned the crown in 1538.
Estevanico: enslaved Moroccan guide who explored the Southwest (1527–36).
Takeaway: Africans came to the Americas as explorers too, not only as captives.

Departure Zones & Scale

Region	Note
West Central Africa	Largest overall source
Senegambia	Rice-growing skills
Bight of Biafra	Major source to Virginia
Gold Coast	Forts like Elmina

Scale: ~12.5 million Africans shipped; ~400,000 went directly to what became the US.
Demand: European & American demand for plantation labor drove capture in Africa.

Capture & Impact on Africa

Capture: wars, raids & kidnapping; captives held in coastal forts before sailing (Elmina).
Impact: lost population, broken families & stronger slave-trading states (Dahomey).
Regions: captives from Senegambia knew rice farming, which Carolina planters wanted.

⚠ Africa wasn't one place. Name the region & society people came from, not "Africa."

✓ Link a region to a skill it brought: Senegambian rice knowledge → Carolina plantations.

2.4–2.6 Middle Passage, Sale & Labor

Resistance at Sea

Middle Passage: crowded, deadly Atlantic crossing; many died of disease & abuse.
Resistance: revolts, hunger strikes & jumping overboard to avoid enslavement.
Amistad (1839): captives took the ship; the Supreme Court freed them (1841).
Olaudah Equiano: his 1789 narrative described the Middle Passage & helped British abolition.

Auctions & the Domestic Trade

1808: the US banned importing captives, but the domestic slave trade grew fast.
Second Middle Passage: ~1 million people sold from the Upper to the Deep South.
Auctions: people were inspected & sold like property; families were split apart.
Property: enslaved people were mortgaged & insured, central to the US economy.

Labor & the Economy

System	How it worked
Gang system	Rows of workers, driven pace
Task system	Set daily task (rice areas)
Skilled labor	Smiths, carpenters, cooks
Hiring out	Owner rented out labor

Cotton: after the cotton gin (1793), cotton became the top US export & slavery spread west.

⚠ Slavery wasn't only Southern: Northern banks, ships, insurers & mills also profited from it.

2.7–2.8 Slavery, Law & Race

Slave Codes

Virginia, 1662: a child's status followed the mother → slavery passed down through generations.
Slave codes: banned reading, gathering & travel w/o a pass; people = property.
Bacon's Rebellion (1676): Black & poor white rebels united; laws then divided them by race.

Landmark Laws & Cases

Law / case	Year	Effect
3/5 Compromise	1787	↑ Southern power
Fugitive Slave Act	1793	Allowed capture
Fugitive Slave Act	1850	Forced N. help
Dred Scott	1857	No Black citizens

Dred Scott (1857): the Court said Black Americans couldn't be US citizens or sue in court.
Fugitive Slave Act (1850): forced Northerners to help capture freedom seekers; no jury trials.
Three-Fifths Compromise (1787): counted enslaved people for Southern seats in Congress.

Social Construction of Race

Race as a construct: laws, not biology, created racial categories to justify slavery.
One-drop rule: any African ancestry made a person legally Black & kept status hereditary.

⚠ Laws didn't just reflect slavery; they built it. Cite a specific code or case as evidence.

✓ DBQ: pair a law (Virginia 1662) w/ its effect on enslaved families or legal status.

2.9–2.10 Culture, Identity & Naming

Creating African American Culture

Syncretism: African, European & Indigenous traditions blended into new culture.
Religion: secret worship, spirituals w/ hidden freedom messages, ring shout.
Gullah Geechee: SC & GA Sea Islands; kept African language, crafts & food.
Kinship: extended & chosen family helped people survive sale & separation from loved ones.
Oral tradition: folktales like Br'er Rabbit taught history, values & clever resistance.

Institutions

Group	Year	Founders
Free African Society	1787	Allen, Jones
AME Church	1816	Richard Allen
Prince Hall Masons	1780s	Prince Hall

The Question of Naming

Names: "African" → "Colored" → "Negro" → "Black" → "African American" over time.
Self-naming: freedpeople often chose new last names, rejecting their enslavers' names.
Debate: honor African roots or claim a right to belong as Americans? Names signaled goals.
Black press: *Freedom's Journal* (1827) was the 1st Black-owned US newspaper, in NYC.

⚠ Culture was resistance: it kept identity, memory & community alive under slavery.

✓ Spirituals like "Steal Away" had double meanings: faith on top, freedom underneath.

2.11–2.13 Revolts & the Haitian Revolution

Stono & Fort Mose

Stono Rebellion (1739, SC): enslaved people marched toward Spanish Florida.
Result: SC passed harsher laws banning gatherings & reading (Negro Act, 1740).
Who rebelled: many Stono rebels were Catholic Kongolese w/ military training from Africa.
Fort Mose (1738): free Black town in Spanish Florida for people escaping Carolina slavery.

Haitian Revolution (1791–1804)

Leader: Toussaint Louverture led enslaved people against French rule in Saint-Domingue.
Outcome: Haiti became the 1st Black republic, born from a slave revolt (1804).
Legacy: inspired the enslaved; scared US enslavers into stricter laws & patrols.

Revolts in the United States

Revolt	Year	Place
Gabriel's	1800	Richmond, VA
German Coast	1811	Louisiana
Denmark Vesey	1822	Charleston, SC
Nat Turner	1831	Southampton, VA

Everyday resistance: slowing work, breaking tools, faking illness & running away.
After Nat Turner (1831): Southern states banned Black preachers & teaching the enslaved to read.

⚠ Most revolts failed or were betrayed, but each one changed laws. Explain the effects.

2.14–2.18 Communities & Debates

Black Organizing in the North

Free Black communities: churches, schools, mutual aid & Black newspapers.
Maria Stewart: 1830s public speaker for abolition, women's rights & Black education.
Limits: free Black Northerners still faced segregation, voting bans & kidnapping.

Maroons, Brazil & Indigenous Ties

Place	Example
US maroons	Great Dismal Swamp
Brazil quilombo	Palmares (1600s)
Florida	Black Seminoles

Maroons: people who escaped & formed free communities in swamps & hills.
Brazil: took in ~5 million Africans; last to end slavery in the Americas (1888).
Indigenous ties: some nations enslaved Black people; Seminoles sheltered them.

Emigration vs. Belonging

Colonization Society (1816): mostly white group sent free Black people to Liberia.
Black responses: most opposed colonization & claimed America as their rightful home.
Emigration supporters: Paul Cuffe & Martin Delany saw leaving as a path to self-rule.

⚠ The ACS was not Black-led. Many backers wanted free Black people gone.

✓ Compare US maroons w/ Brazil's quilombos (Palmares) to show resistance.

2.19–2.22 Abolition, Art & Narratives

Radical Black Political Thought

David Walker: *Appeal* (1829) urged enslaved people to resist, even by force.
Henry Highland Garnet: his 1843 "Address to the Slaves" told the enslaved to resist.
Sojourner Truth: 1851 speech linked the fight against slavery w/ women's rights.

Abolition & the Underground Railroad

Underground Railroad: secret routes & safe houses, often led by Black conductors.
William Still: Philadelphia leader who helped & recorded hundreds of freedom seekers.
Harriet Tubman: escaped in 1849, then went back ~13 times & led about 70 others to freedom.

Narrative	Year	Focus
Douglass	1845	Literacy
Truth	1851	Race + gender
Jacobs	1861	Women's abuse

Art, Photography & Gender

Frederick Douglass: the most-photographed man of his era; used portraits to show Black dignity.
Henry "Box" Brown (1849): shipped himself to freedom in a crate; his story spread widely.
Edmonia Lewis: sculptor whose *Forever Free* (1867) celebrates emancipation.
Women's narratives: exposed sexual abuse & the pain of losing children to sale (Harriet Jacobs).

✓ Compare Douglass (literacy, escape) w/ Jacobs (motherhood, sexual abuse, hiding).

2.23–2.24 Civil War & Freedom Days

The Civil War & Black Communities

Self-emancipation: enslaved people fled to Union lines as "contrabands," pushing the war's aims.
Emancipation Proclamation (1863): freed people in Confederate-held areas only, not border states.
US Colored Troops: ~180,000 Black soldiers, like the 54th Massachusetts at Fort Wagner.
Unequal service: lower pay until 1864 & the risk of enslavement or death if captured.
Black women: served as nurses, cooks, spies & scouts; Tubman led a raid that freed 700+.

Legal End of Slavery

Milestone	Date	Limit
Proclamation	1863	Rebel areas
13th Amend.	1865	Crime loophole
Juneteenth	6/19/1865	Late news

13th Amendment (1865): ended slavery "except as a punishment for crime," a loophole later abused.
Juneteenth: freedom announced in Galveston, TX, on June 19, 1865, 2½ years after the Proclamation.

Freedom Days

Commemorations: Juneteenth & Emancipation Day keep freedom's memory alive.
Federal holiday: Juneteenth became a national holiday in 2021, after decades of local celebration.

⚠ The Proclamation didn't free people in loyal border states or Union-held areas.

✓ Black people claimed freedom through action (escape, enlisting), not only through laws.