## Life on the Hacienda ER Name:

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| **Intro:** after the conquest of the Americas, most of the Caribbean and Central America were turned into haciendas—huge farms or mines worked by slaves and ruled by a slave master. | **What is a Hacienda?** |
| **Cruelty:** the haciendas were very cruel. Nowhere in the world was slavery ever as bad as it was in the Caribbean from 1500-1800. More than 10,000 people had to be kidnapped and enslaved every year just to replace those who had died at work. | **What was so bad about the haciendas?** |
| **History** | |
| **Encomiendas:** the first haciendas were very large lands called Encomiendas.  The encomienda gave to its owner the right to enslave every Non-Spaniard living on the land. The Americas were carved up and the native people forced into work camps, where they died in the hundreds of thousands. | **What was an Encomienda?**  **How did they affect native Americans?** |
| **Profits:** the Encomiendas were very successful businesses. The owners of the encomiendas quickly became among the richest men in the world. They forced native people into mines to drag up gold, silver, or iron or forced them into the fields to grow sugar cane, tobacco, or coffee.  The huge slave populations combined with the value of those products allowed their owners to become the new aristocracy of the world. | **What was so profitable about the encomiendas?** |
| **African Slavery:** unfortunately too many people died and soon the hungry haciendas were starving for lack of slaves.  There were too few Americans left to meet the need and so Europeans turned to Africa. From 1450 to 1900, 12-20 million Africans were kidnapped from Africa and brought to the Americas. Millions more would be born into slavery. | **Why did Europeans start bring Africans to the Americas?**  **How many people were victimized by slavery?** |
| **Conditions** | |
| **The Bottom Line:** one very sad economic fact drove the cruelty of the Central American haciendas: it was cheaper to buy new slaves than to take care of them. Because of this, slaves were worked to death.  In 1700, the life expectancy for a male slave once he started working was 7 years. When they died, the slave master just bought more.  In fact, it was sometimes considered too expensive to raise babies and many masters would force their female slaves to have abortions—even when those children were the product of rape by the slave masters, which was so common that most slave women were probably raped at least once. | **What is the sad economic fact of the haciendas?**  **What was it like for the men on the haciendas?**  **What was it like for the women?** |
| **Treatment:** The slave master ruled through terror alone because he was almost always outnumbered by his slaves.  Those who resisted were burned to death or sliced open and left to die or buried up to their necks to be eaten by ants. Amputations and rape were both used as punishment.  Slaves almost always wore collars and often leashes. Those who ate too much of the product wore muzzles. | **Why did the slave master have to use fear to keep order?**  **What are some details how slaves were treated?** |
| **Justice:** perhaps the worst thing is that almost none of these men ever faced justice. Slavery was eventually outlawed but those who had done it were not punished.  From 1500-1900, it has been estimated that something like 5-20 million Native Americans and 10 million African-Americans died as a result of being worked to death or executed for defiance. But no one was ever brought up for crimes against humanity. Slaves were never compensated for their suffering. Even after slavery, many slave owner families stayed rich. Many of those families are still rich. | **How many people died from slavery?**  **How were slaves compensated?**  **How were slave owners punished?** |