Excerpt Reading on Nathaniel Bacon’s Rebellion:

In June of 1675... Fighting broke out between Native Americans and [poor] frontier colonists. The colonists pleaded to Governor Berkeley for military support, but the governor, acting on behalf of the wealthy planters, refused to finance a war to benefit the colony’s poor frontier settlers.

Berkley's refusal did not sit well with a 29 year-old planter named Nathaniel Bacon. Bacon, a tall, dark-haired, hot-tempered son of a wealthy Englishman, detested Native Americans. He called them "wolves" who prey upon "our harmless and innocent lambs." In 1676, Bacon broke from his old friend Berkeley and raised an army to fight the Native Americans on the Virginia frontier.

Governor Berkeley quickly declared Bacon's army— one-third of which was made up of landless settlers and [indentured servants]— illegal. Hearing this news, Bacon marched on Jamestown in September of 1676 to confront colonial leaders about a number of grievances, including the frontier colonists' lack of representation in the House of Burgess— Virginia's colonial legislature. Virginia's "rabble," as many planters called the frontier settlers, resented being taxed and governed without their consent...

The march turned violent. The rebels set fire to the town as Berkeley and numerous planters fled by ship. However, Bacon had little time to enjoy his victory. He died of illness a month after storming Jamestown. Upon Bacon's death Berkeley returned to Jamestown and easily subdued the leaderless rebels.

Bacon's Rebellion, as it came to be known, did succeed in drawing King Charles's attention to Berkley's government, and Charles's commissioners, or investigators, were highly critical of Berkeley's policies. The old governor was recalled the England to explain himself but he died before meeting the king.

Although it spurred the planter class to cling more tightly to power, Bacon's Rebellion exposed the growing power of the colony’s former indentured servants.

Is this document a primary or a secondary source?

Number the following events 1-8 according to the order they occurred:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King Charles of England investigates Virginia's government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Berkley declares Bacon's army to be illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence erupts between poor Virginian colonist and Native Americans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Berkley dies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebels march on Jamestown and set fire to town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Berkley refuses to give military assistance to frontier settlers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Bacon dies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Bacon raised an army, 1/3 of which were landless settlers and indentured servants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What does the document say is the effect of Bacon's Rebellion?

1
A. Estimated Immigration, 1607–1819

**Primary source:** "Estimated Immigration into the Thirteen Colonies and the United States ... 1607–1819," statistical table.

**Background information:** Until the mid-1660s, white indentured servants met the labor needs of Virginia and Maryland plantations. Then, in the mid-1660s, the supply of white servants fell, and their price rose sharply.

### To the Nearest 100 Immigrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Slaves</th>
<th>Convicts and Prisoners</th>
<th>Indentured Servants</th>
<th>Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1607-1699</td>
<td>33,200</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>96,600</td>
<td>66,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700-1775</td>
<td>278,400</td>
<td>52,200</td>
<td>103,600</td>
<td>151,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776-1809</td>
<td>114,600</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>18,300</td>
<td>253,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810-1819</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,300</td>
<td>134,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Immigration 1607-1819</td>
<td>433,200</td>
<td>55,500</td>
<td>223,800</td>
<td>606,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### In Percentages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Slaves</th>
<th>Convicts and Prisoners</th>
<th>Indentured Servants</th>
<th>Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1607-1699</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700-1775</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776-1809</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810-1819</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Immigration 1607-1819</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Virginia Slave Law: A Slave Woman's Offspring

**Primary source:** Virginia Slavery Act, December, 1662.

**Background information:** In 1662, Virginia made the status of slaves hereditary; a slave woman's offspring became the property of her master.

Whereas some doubts have arisen whether children got by any Englishman upon a Negro woman should be slave or free, be it therefore enacted and declared by this present Grand Assembly, that all children born in this country shall be held bond or free only according to the condition of the mother; and that if any Christian shall commit fornication with a Negro man or woman, he or she so offending shall pay double the fines imposed by the former act.

[Courtesy of History Matters, a project of the American Social History Project/Center for Media and Learning (City University of New York, Graduate Center) and the Center for History and New Media (George Mason University).]

Virginia Slave Law: Killing a Slave

**Primary source:** Virginia Slavery Act, 1669.

**Background information:** During the 1660s and 1670s, Maryland and Virginia established slave codes.

Whereas the only law in force for the punishment of refractory servants resisting their master, mistress, or overseer cannot be inflicted upon Negroes, nor the obstinacy of many of them be suppressed by other than violent means, be it enacted and declared by this Grand Assembly if any slave resists his master (or other by his master's order correcting him) and by the extremity of the correction should chance to be that his death shall not be accounted a felony, but the master (or that other person appointed by the master to punish him) be acquitted from molestation, since it cannot be presumed that premeditated malice (which alone makes murder a felony) should induce any man to destroy his own estate.


D. Virginia Slave Law

**Primary source:** Virginia General Assembly, *Virginia Slavery Act*, state law, 1705.

**Background information:** In 1705, Virginia singled out people of African descent and Native Americans as slaves.

[... ]**An act declaring the Negro, Mulatto, and Indian slaves within this dominion, to be real estate.**

For the better settling and preservation of estates within this dominion, [ ... ]


Courtesy of History Matters, a project of the American Social History Project/Center for Media and Learning (City University of New York, Graduate Center) and the Center for History and New Media (George Mason University).
Bacon’s Rebellion Sources

Directions: In groups of 2-3 read the sources and answer the questions about them below.

Source A

1. Between 1607 and 1699, what was the largest immigrant group to the colonies?
   
   a. How many immigrants did this group account for?
   
   b. What percentage of total immigration did this group account for?

2. Between 1700 and 1775, what was the largest immigrant group to the colonies?
   
   a. How many immigrants did this group account for?
   
   b. What percentage of total immigration did this group account for?
Bacon’s Rebellion Sources

Directions: With a partner, read Sources B-D and answer the questions about them below.

Source B

1. According to this 1662 VA law, whose condition determined whether a child was born (held bold) as a slave or born free? The father’s or the mother’s condition? The ____________.

2. If a White slave master had a child with a Black slave woman, the child would be born ____________.

3. What penalty did a Christian have to pay if they had sex (fornicated) with a Black man or woman? They had to pay ________________.

4. Historical Inference: Therefore, do you think White slave masters would want to have children with their Black female slaves? Why or why not?

Source C

5. According to this 1669 VA law, if a slave resists his/her master and the slave master kills the slave, what will be the penalty? The slave master will be ________________.

6. Why is this the penalty? According to the document, no slave master would plan to _______ his slave.

7. Historical Inference: Therefore, do you think White slave masters would want to kill their slaves? Why or why not?

Source D

8. According to this 1705 VA law, what happens to a slave when their master dies? Who do they belong to?

9. Historical Inference: Therefore, do you think White slave masters would want to free their slaves? Why or why not?

10. What kind of source (primary or secondary) are all of these three sources? They are all ________________.

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