"The Economy That Slavery Built"

A GUIDE TO LISTENING WITH CHILDREN
1619 is a New York Times audio series hosted by journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, who created The 1619 Project initiative for The New York Times Magazine. You can find more information about the podcast along with transcripts for listening at nytimes.com/1619podcast. Episode two explores how the institution of slavery helped to turn a young and poor nation into a global economic leader. This episode includes some scenes of graphic violence, which we identify in the guide.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE LISTENING
- What is an economy? What do you know about the economics in the US?
- Some of the history & personal stories told in this podcast are hard to listen to because they describe painful events. What can we do to take care of ourselves when something is both important & difficult to listen to?

BEGINNINGS OF THE COTTON ECONOMY
6:20-15:05
(Some graphic descriptions of violence)
- How did the invention of the cotton gin influence the economy, the treatment of enslaved people, & the treatment of Native Americans?
- What connections do Matthew Desmond & Nikole Hannah-Jones draw between the techniques for managing labor & productivity on slave plantations & in modern corporations?

THE PANIC OF 1837
19:57-25:57
- Have you previously heard of the Panic of 1837? What about the economic crisis in the late 2000s? What comparisons do Desmond & Hannah-Jones draw between the two? Does their analysis make sense to you?
- What is the conclusion Desmond ultimately comes to about American capitalism?

CONNECTING BANKING TO SLAVERY
15:05-19:57
- Did you know the history of banks allowing plantation owners to take out mortgages on enslaved people? What questions & emotions does it bring up for you?
- Why was it hypocritical for global investors to buy slave-backed mortgage bonds in the United States while saying they oppose slavery?

NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES, PERSONAL ANECDOTE
0:00-6:20
(Section describes the murder of Emmett Till)
- Does Nikole Hannah Jones’ Aunt Charlotte remind you of anyone in your own life?
- What are some of the things the Tallahatchie River (and rivers in general) represent in this story? Where else have you seen similar symbolism?

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JESMYN WARD POEM
25:57-31:56
(Some graphic descriptions of violence)
- Jesmyn Ward wrote this creative work in her imagining & responding to the 1808 Act prohibiting the importation of slaves. What does this demonstrate about how knowledge & research can inspire us to create?

AFTER LISTENING ACTIVITY
Research a current event related to business or the economy. Reflect on the impact this event has on everyday people & create a piece of art to demonstrate that impact.

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