

***INDENTURED SERVITUDE  
& SLAVERY  
IN  
THE 13 ENGLISH  
COLONIES***

**American Studies**

**Unit 2**

**2011 - 2012**

# INDENTURED SERVITUDE

## ■ Defined:

- *A system of labor in which a person received free passage to North America in exchange for working without pay for a certain number of years. (upon completion of their service, the colonist was free of debt and often given a small parcel of land)*

# SLAVERY

## ■ Defined:

- *A system of forced labor in which a person is held against their free will to do work for their “master” or “owner”*

# WHY DID THE SOUTHERN COLONIES NEED LARGE QUANTITIES OF LABOR?

- The economy of the Southern Colonie swas based on **PLANTATION AGRICULTURE**, which requires giant plots of land to grow large quantities of cash crops.
- A large supply of cheap labor is necessary for plantation agriculture to be profitable

# HOW DID THE USE OF INDENTURED SERVITUDE EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE IMPORTATION OF SLAVES FROM AFRICA & THE WEST INDIES?

- **As Indentured Servants' contracts expired, there was still a need for large numbers of cheap labor. Slavery was the answer**

# CHARACTERISTICS OF INDENTURED SERVITUDE

- *Contract Labor*
- *Worked for 4 to 7 years*
- *Worked for free passage to North America*
- *Voluntary*

# CHARACTERISTICS OF SLAVERY

- *Forced labor*
- *Lifelong*
- *Involuntary*
- *Bondage*
- *Harsh treatment*

# CHARACTERISTICS OF SHARED BY BOTH INDENTURED SERVITUDE & SLAVERY

- *Hard, physical work*
- *Worked for other people*
- *Agriculture-based work*