

## SELETED VOCABULARY

**Accommodate** to do a kindness or a favor to

**Agency** in historical studies, the ability of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices

**Agitate** to disturb or excite emotionally

**Agrarian** relating to cultivated land or the cultivation of land

**Alderman** a member of a municipal (city) council or assembly

**Amenity** a desirable or useful feature or facility of a building or place

**Antebellum** in the United States, the period after the War of 1812 and before the beginning of the Civil War

**Artisan** a worker in a skilled trade, especially one that involves making things by hand

**Atlantic World** in historical studies, the interactions between the peoples of the Americas, Africa, and Europe who border the Atlantic Ocean

**Auction** a public sale in which goods or property are sold to the highest bidder

**Autonomy** independence or freedom, as of the will or one's actions

**Bondage** the state of being enslaved

**Broker** a person who buys and sells goods or assets for others

**Brutality** savage physical violence; great cruelty

**Census** an official count or survey of a population; in the United States, constitutionally required every 10 years

**Cistern** a tank for storing water

**Clerk** a person employed to keep records, accounts, and complete other routine administrative duties

**Client** a person or organization using the services of a lawyer or other professional person or company

**Customs House** a building housing the offices whose officials oversaw the importing and exporting goods into and out of a country

**Demand** in economics, the willingness and ability to purchase a good or service

**Drayman** the driver of a dray, a low, flat-bed wagon, pulled generally by horses or mules that were used for transport of all kinds of goods

**Eccentric** unconventional and slightly strange behavior

**Economy** an area of the production, distribution and trade, as well as consumption of goods and services by different groups including individuals, businesses, and governments

**Elaborate** involving many carefully arranged parts or details; detailed and complicated in design and planning

**Elite** a group of persons who by virtue of position or education exercise much power or influence

**Fertile** referring to soil or land, producing or capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops

**Free person of color** in the antebellum American South, people of various descent (African or possibly Native American) who were not enslaved

**Gang labor system** a division of labor on antebellum plantations featuring strict supervision on enslaved individuals

**Gilded** covered thinly with gold leaf or gold paint

**Indigo** a blue dye obtained from plants

**Industry** a distinct group of productive or profit-making enterprises

**Inherit** to come into possession of or receive upon another's death

**Institution** a significant practice, relationship, or organization in a society or culture

**Insurance** a means of protection from financial loss

**Irrigation** the watering of land by artificial means to foster plant growth

**Lethal** capable of causing death

**Lye** a strongly alkaline solution used for washing or cleansing

**Malady** a disease or ailment

**Madeira** a fortified wine from the island of Madeira

**Manumission** release from enslavement

**Midwife** a person trained to assist women in childbirth

**Municipal** relating to a city or town or its governing body

**Nursemaid** a woman or girl employed to look after a young child or children

**Ottoman** a low upholstered seat or footstool

**Pantry** a small room or closet in which food, dishes, and utensils are kept



VIRTUAL LEARNING JOURNEY

# SLAVERY AND FREEDOM

[www.gpb.org/ot-house](http://www.gpb.org/ot-house)

**Patriarchal** relating to or characteristic of a system of society or government controlled by men

**Privy** a toilet typically located in a small shed outside a house or other building

**Profit** a financial gain, especially the difference between the amount earned and the amount spent in buying, operating, or producing something

**Rural** in, relating to, or characteristic of the countryside rather than the town

**Scullery** a small kitchen or room used for washing dishes and other dirty household work

**Staple** a main item of trade or production

**Supplement** something that completes or enhances something else when added to it

**Tabby** a type of building material made of lime, shells, gravel, and stones, which dries very hard

**Transaction** an instance of buying or selling something; a business deal

**Trust Lot** a plot of land intended for public buildings like churches, courthouses, or banks

**Urban** in, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city

**Ward** an administrative division or district of a city or borough

**Wharf** a raised, level structure built beside the edge of the sea or a river, where ships can be tied and goods unloaded

**Widow** a woman who has lost her spouse by death and has not remarried