*Beneath the Floorboards:*

*Whispers of the Enslaved at Marlpit Hall*

Intermediate/High School Student Worksheet

**Meet the Taylors**

1. Sometimes people and events from the past may be difficult to understand because they are from a time that is unfamiliar to us. The Taylors lived at Marlpit Hall over 250 years ago - how do you think they may have felt about slavery? Explain your answer.

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1. The tragedy of slavery occurred at Marlpit Hall. Why do you think it is important to keep Marlpit Hall open to the public as a museum?

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**Seeds of Slavery**

1. What was the purpose of “seasoning?” \*Hint: Check the Seeds of Slavery box.

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1. What were your thoughts about Africa before viewing the Mansa Musa video? Give one example of something you learned or found interesting after viewing the video.

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1. Upon viewing the timeline of slave ship voyages, where did the bulk of the ships seem to be landing? Did this surprise you? If yes, explain why.

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1. Upon viewing the video of the slave ships and the conditions in which the Africans were transported, describe what the journey may have been like for them. What struck you the most about these conditions?

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1. Not everyone participated in the system of slavery. Samuel Gardiner Wright was an early abolitionist who put his principles into effect.
2. How were the actions of an abolitionist different than someone who simply did not own slaves?
3. What might you call someone who did not own slaves but also did not do anything to encourage the end of slavery?

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6. If you were an abolitionist writing an article for the local newspaper, what might you

say to convince people that slavery was wrong?

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7. What are the two main differences between slavery and indentured servitude?

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**They Were There**

1. Whose story from the Marlpit enslaved affected you the most? Why?

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**The “Kitchen Family”**

1. Why does the term “kitchen family” seem misleading, especially within the context of slavery?

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1. What were some of the ways the enslaved tried to enrich their lives?

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1. List three tasks that you might have been expected to do as an enslaved person. Which would you have disliked the most and why?

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1. Why was Hoodoo frowned upon by enslavers? Identify at least one reason.

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1. Do you agree or disagree that it should have been considered a crime for an enslaved person to steal food? Explain your answer.

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**Free Black Society**

1. Why do you think enslavers preferred to keep the enslaved uneducated (unable to read or write)?

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1. What challenges did a newly freed person face?

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1. Why did local communities like “Africa” form? What benefits did these communities offer?

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**Resistance**

1. What were some of the ways the enslaved resisted the condition of slavery?

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1. The color blue was spiritually significant to the enslaved. What do you think blue may have been symbolic of? (Hint: think of things in nature.)

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