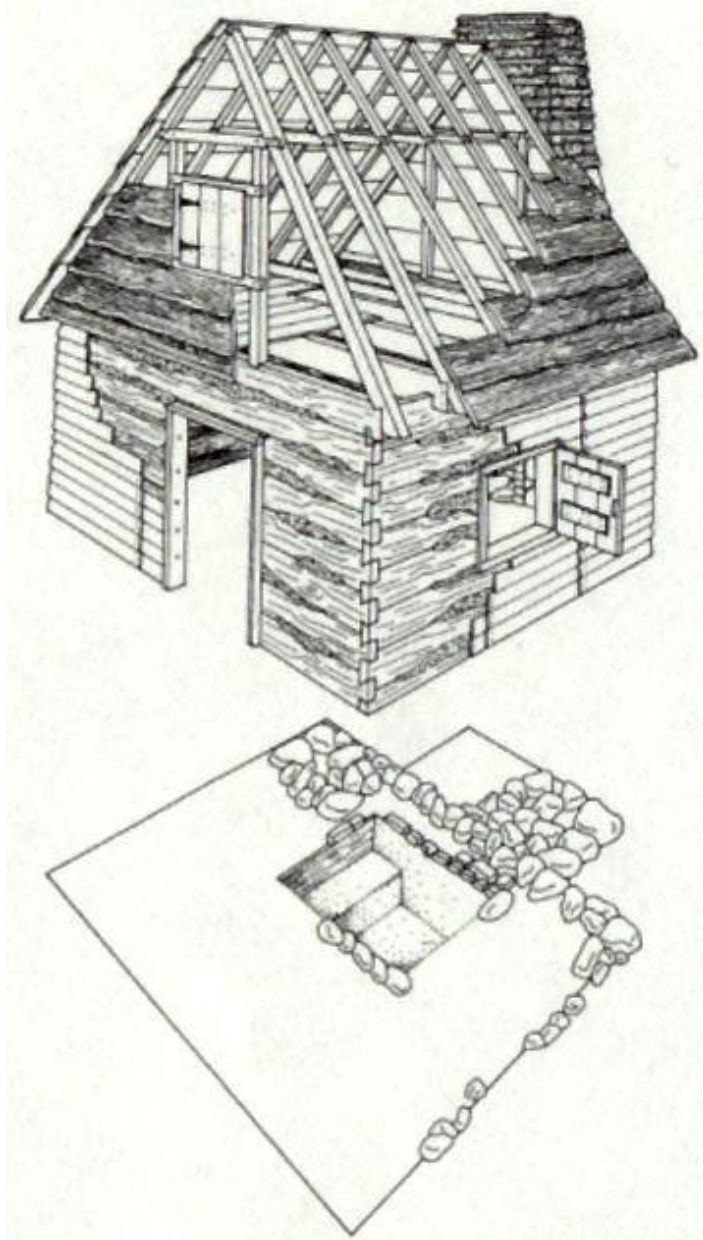


Educational materials were developed through the Making Master Teachers in Howard County Program, a partnership between Howard County Public School System and the Center for History Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

## **Teacher Page: Resource Sheet #11**

**Source:** *History Matters* website, George Mason University:  
[historymatters.gmu.edu/images/monticello.gif](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/images/monticello.gif)

**Note:** The drawing has been re-created by archaeologists at the Monticello, Mulberry Row Site. Below is an artist rendition of a cabin, fully constructed. Most of the slaves lived in log cabins. They were usually one room with lofts. Some measured about 12 by 14 feet. Others were larger. They were made of logs. The roofs were made of pine slabs. They had wood chimneys and dirt floors. Root cellars were dug into the floors for storing vegetables.



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### **Document Analysis:**

1. How would you describe the materials that were excavated from the archaeological site?

**The materials seem to be very basic. Stone, wood and clay were used to build the cabins.**

2. Estimate the size of the cabin, based on the data that is provided.

**There are no detectable measurements, but one entrance and one hearth would suggest a single room, perhaps 15' x 15', that may have housed one family.**

3. Rocks and stones seem to be common materials used in slave cabins. Why might that be so?

**These materials may be readily found nearby and they would survive weather, fire and rotting.**

4. Does this drawing provide any insight as to Jefferson's feelings about slavery?

Explain your answer.

**The slave cabin that is presented is very simple and small. Jefferson may have wanted to keep slaves comfortable without providing them with too much comfort. Other archaeological findings suggest that some cabins were larger and more comfortable. Many slaves lived in or near the main houses at Monticello and other farms.**