

Resource Sheet #10

Source: Thomas Jefferson, in an omitted portion of the draft of the Declaration of Independence. South Carolina and Georgia delegates to the Continental Congress refused to approve of the passage.

Thomas Jefferson, The Writings of Thomas Jefferson: Being His Autobiography, Correspondence, Reports, Messages, Addresses, and other Writings, Official and Private
(Washington, D.C.: Taylor & Maury, 1853-1854).

“He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating the most sacred right of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither, keeping open the markets where men should be bought and sold.”

Document Analysis:

1. Who is Jefferson referring to in this document when using the term “He?”
2. What event is he describing when referring to transportation?
3. What evidence does Jefferson provide that makes slaves seem powerless?
4. Who does Jefferson blame for the slave business in colonial America and what evidence does he cite?
5. How does this document help to answer the question, “Where Did Thomas Jefferson Stand on the Issue of Slavery?”