**America Will Be: Chapter 16-Lessons 1-3: Southern Society STUDY GUIDE**

**Vocabulary**

Cotton gin-a machine that cleans cotton by separating the seeds from the fibers

abolitionist-a person who wanted to abolish, or do away with, slavery

overseer- a person who directed the work of the slaves

spiritual-a religious song of slaves, often expresses hope for a better life

sharecropper-one of the poor southern farmers who rented land and gave part of the crops to the owner

**King Cotton**

* Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, which removed the seeds in the cotton much quicker than the slaves could pick by hand.
* Textile mills bought all the cotton the South could make, which allowed the plantation owners to plant more cotton, using slaves to pick it and the cotton gin to clean it. The more cotton the plantations grew, the more slaves they needed.

**The Plantation Owners**

* Huge profits allowed southern plantations to live the life of wealth and leisure.
* A gentleman might challenge another man to a fight if he felt insulted in some way.

**The Defense of Slavery**

* Nat Turner was an educated slave and preacher, who inspired 75 slaves to revolt against white people.

**Living the Life of a Slave**

* An overseer was hired to watch the workers in the fields on large plantations. The overseer would often punish the slaves.
* Field slaves worked 14 hours a day and each slave picked about 140 pounds of cotton.

**Surviving Slavery**

* Slaves developed a culture that helped them survive their hard lives.

**Resisting Slavery**

* Trying to escape was a brave but risky act, because any slave that was caught would be severely beaten.

**The People of the Other South**

* Andrew Jackson, the 7th president, lived in simple cabins on small farms. This was true for many of the white southerners.

**Life on Small Farms**

* Religion gave some comfort to the poor southern farmers. They attended camp meetings, which became an important social occasion as well as a religious event.

**Unity in Defense of Slavery**

* Even though most southerners didn’t own slaves, they defended it because it made them feel more important and richer than they were.