**KEY TERMS**

***Chain Gangs***: Chain gangs were groups of convicts forced to labor at tasks such as road construction, ditch digging, or farming while chained together. Some chain gangs worked at locations near a prison, while others were housed in transportable jails such as railroad cars or trucks. Chain gangs minimized the cost of guarding prisoners, but exposed prisoners to an array of health problems and dangerous working conditions.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/chain-gangs/>

***Convict Leasing***: Initially, some states paid private contractors to house and feed prisoners. Within a few years states realized they could lease out their convicts to local planters or industrialists who would pay minimal rates for the workers – thereby eliminating costs and increasing revenue. Soon, markets for convict laborers developed, with entrepreneurs buying and selling convict labor leases. Unlike slave owners, temporary employers had only a small capital investment in convict laborers and thus convict laborers were often dismally treated. Even so, the convict lease system was highly profitable for the states and the employers.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/convict-leasing/>

***Jim Crow & Plessy v. Ferguson***: As whites gained control of Southern states’ governments when Reconstruction ended, they began to enact laws known collectively as Jim Crow, which oppressed blacks through segregation. Though the 1875 Civil Rights Act had stated that all races were entitled to equal treatment in public accommodations, an 1883 Supreme Court decision clarified that the law did not apply to private persons or corporations. Once the Supreme Court decided that “separate but equal” was legal in the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson case, segregation became even more ensconced in Southern law and strengthened Jim Crow. Poll taxes, literacy requirements, and grandfather clauses obstructed blacks from voting.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/jim-crow/>

***Judgments and Contracts***: In Southern courtrooms, two main legal methods developed that ensnared men into forced labor. In many cases, defendants were often found guilty of real or fabricated crimes, and were fined for the crime and additional court fees. When the men were unable to pay, a local businessman would step forward to pay the fines. The defendant would then sign a contract agreeing to work without pay until the debt was paid off. A second method involved a defendant who, when faced with the likelihood of a conviction and the threat of being sent to a far-off work camp, would “confess judgment,” essentially claiming responsibility before any trial occurred. At that point, a local businessman would step forward to act as “surety,” vouching for the future good behavior of the defendant, and forfeiting a bond that would pay for the crime. At that point, the judge would accept the bond, without ever rendering a verdict on the crime. The defendant would then sign a contract agreeing to work without pay until the surety bond was paid off.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/false-contracts/>

***Life in the Coal Mine***: Coal mines were dangerous for all workers. Collapsing mines, suffocation, gas poisoning, explosions, and heavy machinery accidents were daily dangers. Men often worked standing in water, swinging their sharp pick axes and shoveling coal in the flickering light of their gas head lamps. For those who survived those hazards, long-term exposure to poor air caused chronic lung diseases such as black lung. For convict laborers, conditions were even worse. Poor food rations, cramped sleeping quarters, and inadequate health care led to waves of diseases. Physical punishment for not meeting the required amounts for coal collected or insubordination included whippings, being tied up and tossed into solitary confinement, and water torture. Shackles, chains, and other methods were used to prevent escape.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/coal-mining/>

***Peonage (Debt Slavery)***: Peonage, also called debt slavery or debt servitude, is a system where an employer compels a worker to pay off a debt with work. Legally, peonage was outlawed following the Civil War. However the federal government didn’t truly commit to enforcing it until the 1940s. After Reconstruction, many Southern black men were swept into peonage though different methods.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/peonage/>

***Black Codes, Pig Laws and Vagrancy Statutes***: In state after state, and county after county, after Reconstruction ended, new laws targeted African Americans – and effectively criminalized black life in efforts to restore power to Southern whites. The pig laws enhanced penalties for what had been previously misdemeanor offenses, to felony offenses. In Mississippi for example, theft of a pig worth as little as a dollar could mean five years in prison. With the vagrancy statutes you could be convicted if at any point you could not prove that you were employed.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/black-codes/>

***Reconstruction***: In the years immediately following the Civil War, from 1865-1877, the South entered a period called Reconstruction. During this time, the Freedmen’s Bureau was created to offer former slaves food, clothing, and advice on labor contracts and the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments were passed in order to attempt to bring equality to blacks. Initially, with federal laws and federal troops offering protection, blacks began to vote and gain political power. Soon after, Southern whites responded with violence and intimidation. In 1877, because of the cost, administrative corruption, Northern exhaustion, and Southern protests, the federal government withdrew from the South, and black disenfranchisement and oppression quickly followed.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/reconstruction/>

***Sharecropping***: Sharecropping is a system where the landlord allows a tenant to farm his land in exchange for a share of the crop. This encouraged tenants to work to produce the biggest harvest that they could, and ensured they would remain tied to the land and unlikely to leave for other opportunities. High interest rates, unpredictable harvests, and unscrupulous landlords and merchants often kept tenant farm families severely indebted, requiring the debt to be carried over until the next year or the next. Additional laws made it difficult or even illegal for sharecroppers to sell their crops to others besides their landlord, or prevented sharecroppers from moving if they were indebted to their landlord.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/sharecropping/>

***Teddy Roosevelt and Progressivism***: By the end of the nineteenth century, a new political movement called Progressivism, of which Teddy Roosevelt was an ardent supporter, developed in response to significant economic, social, and political inequalities. Progressives advocated for many different reforms including labor and prison reform, women’s suffrage, public health initiatives, and universal education; the central, shared idea was that the government should lead efforts to effect change.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/progressivism/>

***White Supremacists and Terrorism***: White supremacy is the belief that white people are superior to other races of people. After Reconstruction, white supremacists formed political and social groups to promote whites and oppress blacks, and to enact laws that codified inequality. The Ku Klux Klan (founded in 1865) and the Knights of the White Camelia were secret groups, while members of the White League and the Red Shirts were publicly known. All four groups used violence to intimidate blacks and Republican voters. Their efforts succeeded, and with the end of Reconstruction in 1877, white supremacy became the reality of the South.

To learn more about this theme and watch related video clips, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/white-supremacy/>