North American Slavery Timeline

- 1441 Portugal begins slave trade between Africa and Europe.
- 1520 Disease decimates Native Americans, enslaved Africans imported as replacements.
- 1581 First enslaved Africans arrive in Florida.
- 1607 Jamestown settled.
- 1619 First Africans arrive at Jamestown.
- 1642 Virginia law makes it illegal to assist escaping slaves.
- 1661-1700 slave codes become increasing prohibitive, eventually giving life/death to owners/state.
- 1751 Christopher Gist and Dr. Thomas Walker, accompanied by an African American servant, explore Kentucky.
- 1770 Crispus Attucks, freed/escaped slave: first casualty of the American Revolution
- 1775 Daniel Boone accompanied by an African American servant who may have served as his guide, explores Kentucky

African Americans fighting in the American Revolution:

- 4/18/1775 Lexington and Concord
- 6/16/1775 Bunker Hill
- 7/9/1775 George Washington issues a command prohibiting further enlistment of African Americans.
- 11/12/1775 Lord Dunmore offers freedom to escaped slaves willing to enlist in the British Army.
- 12/30/1775 George Washington eases the ban.
- Between 4,000 and 6,000 African Americans serve in the Revolutionary Army—mostly in integrated units
- 14,000 African Americans leave with the British after their defeat
- 100,000 (estimated) African Americans use the war as an opportunity to escape enslavement, many escape west to unsettled lands such as Kentucky.
- 1792 Kentucky Constitutional Convention: Free African Americans are allowed to vote.
- 1799 Second Kentucky Constitution adopted. Free African Americans lose their vote.
- 1807 Baptized Licking Locust Friends of Humanity, dedicated to preaching an anti-slavery gospel, are established in Kentucky.
- 1808 David Barrow establishes Kentucky's first abolitionist society
- 1809 Abraham Lincoln born @ Sinking Spring Farm near present day Hodgenville, Kentucky.
- 1809 – 1816 Abraham Lincoln's Kentucky years
- William Ash, William Brownfield, Job Dye: slave-owning neighbors during Lincoln's Kentucky years

- 1811 Lincoln's move to Knob Creek where young Abraham may have witnessed slave coffles moving along the Cumberland Trail.
- 1816 Lincoln's move to Indiana (Free state)
- 1828 Abraham visits New Orleans, probably witnessing a slave auction.
- 1831 Abraham returns to New Orleans, probably witnessing another slave auction.
- 1841 Abraham witnesses…"slaves shackled together with irons. That sight was a continual torment to me…"
- 1849 Abraham Lincoln introduces a bill in the House of Representatives to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. It is never ratified.
- 4/16/1862. President Abraham Lincoln signs an act abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia. (the only place in the Union where the Constitution gives him the authority to do so)
- 9/23/1862. Emancipation Proclamation issued
- 1/1/1863 Emancipation Proclamation enacted
- 12/5/1864 13th Amendment abolishing slavery proposed to Congress
- 12/17/1865 slavery still legal in Kentucky and Delaware
- 12/18/1865 13th Amendment ratified ending slavery
- 2/12/1901 Delaware ratifies the 13th Amendment (Lincoln's birthday)
- 3/18/1976 Kentucky ratifies the 13th Amendment
- 3/16/1995 Mississippi ratifies the 13th Amendment