

NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

Observations and Inferences from Slave Narratives

Narratives written by enslaved people give us insights into the nature of slavery in America. Read the narratives by Olaudah Equiano and Frederick Douglass, and use the documents to answer these questions.

Observation Questions:

	CAPTURE “They carry off as many as they can seize”	SLAVE TRADE “Dread and trembling”	LIFE IN SLAVERY “The slave has no rights...”
When did this take place?			
Where did it take place?			
Who was speaking?			
What events did he witness or experience?			

Inference & Interpretation Questions (answer on the back of this page):

1. How might these events of capture, the slave trade, and life in slavery have shaped the life of an enslaved person? Give examples from Olaudah Equiano’s or Frederick Douglass’ narratives to support your answer.
2. How might these events have shaped the life of an enslaver?
3. Do you think the enslavers viewed slaves as people, or as property? Give evidence from the documents you read. How might the enslavers have justified their beliefs and their actions?
4. What does a person have to believe in order to “own” another person?