

NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

Laws Regulating American Slavery

Another way to understand slavery in America is from the perspective of the legal system. What can the laws tell us about the nature of American slavery, and how it changed over time? Use the three documents listed to make observations and inferences.

Observation Questions: Answer each question for each document

	Jamestown Colony 1619 Law	Jamestown Colony 1642 Law	Jamestown Colony 1670 Law
Who did this law affect?			
What was this law intended to do?			
Does this law mention people's <i>race</i> ? If so, what does it say?			

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

1. What is one thing that changed for enslaved people between 1619 and 1670? Give evidence from the documents.
2. What do these laws tell you about ways that enslaved people were trying to have some control over their own lives? Give examples from the documents.
3. Why do you think the laws do not mention the race of the enslaved person, or the enslaver, before 1670? What do you think might have happened that led to the 1670 law?