

Name _____

Sharecropper at Work



Source: *The Library of Congress*

Directions: This is a photo of a sharecropper at work in North Carolina. Answer the following questions about this picture.

1. What crop is the man picking?

2. Do you think this job was a hard one? Why or why not?

3. Explain the differences between slavery and sharecropping.

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A Sharecropper's Contract

Directions: The text below is from a sharecropper's labor contract from 1882. Answer the following questions about the contract.

"The sale of every cropper's part of the cotton to be made by me when and where I choose to sell, and after deducting all they owe me and all sums that I may be responsible for on their accounts, to pay them their half of the net proceeds. Work of every description, particularly the work on fences and ditches, to be done to my satisfaction, and must be done over until I am satisfied that it is done as it should be."

Source: Grimes Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection

1. What percentage of the "net [total] proceeds" will the worker receive?

2. Which phrases in this contract might lead to problems for the workers? Explain why.

3. Some sharecroppers found that sharecropping was not that different from slavery. Describe three ways sharecroppers were treated like slaves by some landowners.

