

Activity 1 Assessment

This is an assessment of the student's ability to analyze Lunsford Lane's narrative for features of enslaved entrepreneurship. Use "Key Features of Enslaved Entrepreneurship" as a reference for this assessment.

1. Match the words (number) with the correct definition below (letter).

- 1) *Entrepreneurship*
 - 2) *"To make a way out of no way"*
 - 3) *Unique opportunity*
 - 4) *Self-hiring*
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- a. *A truly innovative product is created.*
 - b. *The pursuit of opportunity beyond resources controlled.*
 - c. *Take action to affect personal situation, even with few resources to "make do with."*
 - d. *The slave finds the work, negotiates terms, does the work and is paid directly.*

2. Answer the questions with a short answer of one or two sentences after closely reading this excerpt Lane's narrative including the footnote that Lane wrote (see asterisk).

"My master died; and his widow, by the will, became sole executrix of his property. To the surprise of all, the bank of which he had been cashier presented a claim against the estate for forty thousand dollars. By a compromise, this sum was reduced to twenty thousand dollars; and my mistress, to meet the amount, sold some of her slaves, and hired out others. I hired my time of her,* for which I paid her a price varying from one hundred dollars to one hundred and twenty dollars per year. This was a privilege which comparatively few slaves at the South enjoy; and in this I felt truly blessed."

* It is contrary to the laws of the State, for a slave to have command of his own time in this way, but in Raleigh it is sometimes winked at. I knew one slave—man who was doing well for himself, taken up by the public authorities and hired out for the public good, three times in succession for this offence. The time of hiring in such a case is one year. The master is subject to a fine. But generally as I have said, if the slave is orderly and appears to be making nothing, neither he nor the master is interfered with.

- 1) *What does Lane mean by the expression "to have command of his own time" in the footnote?*
- 2) *How much money does Lane pay his mistress each year?*
- 3) *Was there a specific amount of money that Lunsford Lane could keep when self-hiring?*
- 4) *Why does Lane say it is important that the slave who's hired out "appears to be making nothing"?*

3. Read the passage below and answer the question that follows:

"Almost every article of clothing worn either by my wife or children, especially every article of much value, I had to purchase; while the food he furnished the family amounted to less than a meal a day, and that of the coarser kind. I have no remembrance that he ever gave us a blanket or any other article of bedding, although it is considered a rule at the South that the master shall furnish each of his slaves with one blanket a year. So that, both as to food and clothing, I had in fact to support both my wife and the children, while he claimed them as his property, and received all their labor... So that by the expense of providing for my wife and children, all the money I had earned and could earn by my night labor was consumed, till I found myself reduced to five dollars, and this I lost one day in going to the plantation. My light of hope now went out"

Why did it matter so much to Lane that his master cover the costs of food, clothing and bedding for his wife and children?

4. In a few sentences explain the differences between "self hiring" and being "being hired out."

5. According to the Harvard Business School, entrepreneurship is "pursuit of opportunity beyond resources controlled." Which of the following statements reflects or supports this definition?

- 1) Self-hired slaves who started up their own independently owned business ventures with little to no capital.
- 2) People who grow up poor are experienced with "making do" with few or no resources and therefore are accustomed to being resource deprived and "making do."
- 3) Scaling an organization by hiring a sales force and creating more distribution centers.
- 4) An established business with capital saved, invests in a new "spin-off" business.

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