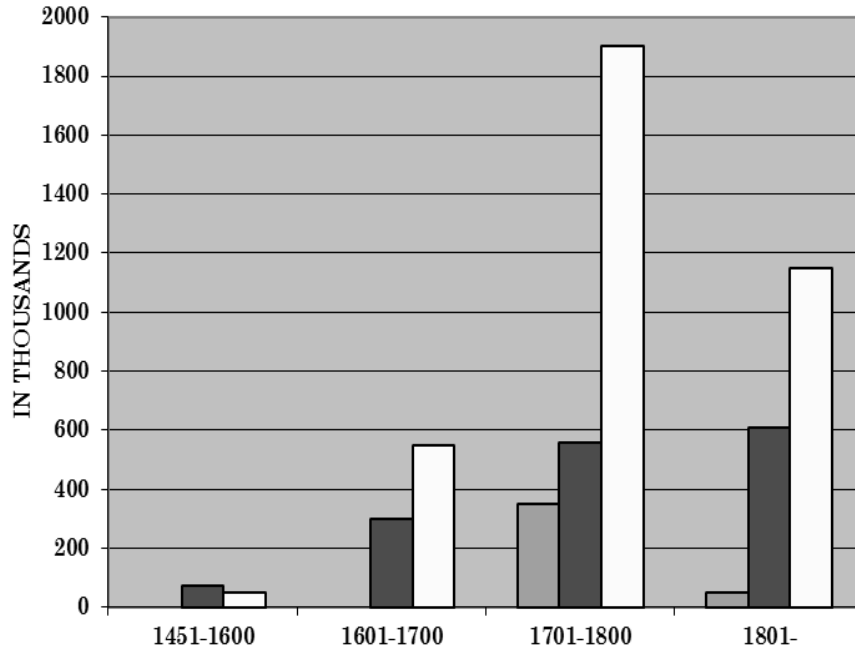




Estimated Numbers of Slaves Imported in the Americas



■ British Colonies / U.S. ■ Spanish America □ Portuguese America (Brazil)

Why do you think the Spanish imported more slaves than North Americans?

Why do you think the Portuguese imported so many more slaves than others?

Write **THREE** conclusions you can make about life in New World settlements based on the graph and explain each:

1.

2.

3.

PRIMARY SOURCE # 1

Slavery in Brazil: The World of the Sugar Plantation
by Joao Antonio Andreoni, a Roman Catholic priest (1711)



“If the plantation owner must display his capacity (*ability*) in one thing more than another, it is in the proper choice of persons to administer (*run*) his estate. ... The first choice that he must make with care on the basis of secret information concerning the conduct and knowledge of the person in question, is that of a chaplain to whom he must entrust the teaching of all that pertains to the Christian way of life. For the principal obligation (*main responsibility*) of the planter is to teach, or have taught, his family and slaves. This should be done not by some slave born in Brazil, or by some overseer who at best can only teach them their prayers and the laws of God and the Church by word of mouth, but by one who can explain to them what they should believe and what they must do, and how they must do it, and how they are to ask God for what they need. ...

The chaplain should live outside the planter’s house; this is best for both, because he is a priest and not a servant, a familiar of God and not of men.... If he is expected to teach the children of the plantation owner, he should receive a just additional compensation (*pay*). ...

It is fitting that the slaves should understand that the chief overseer has power to command and reprove (*scold*) them, and punish them when necessary ... Nor must the overseers suppose that their powers are unlimited, especially in what concerns punishment ... The overseers must on no account be permitted to kick slaves - in particular to kick pregnant slave women in the belly - or to strike slaves with a stick ... they may inflict a mortal (*deadly*) head wound on some valuable slave that cost a great deal of money. What they may do is scold them and strike them a few times on the back with a liana whip, to teach them a lesson. ...

The slaves are the hands and feet of the plantation owner, for without them you cannot make, preserve, and increase a fortune, or operate a plantation in Brazil. ... It is necessary, therefore, to buy a certain number of slaves each year and assign them to the cane (*sugar*) fields, the manioc (melon) fields, the sawmills, and the boats....

Some arrive in Brazil very barbarous (*primitive*) and dullwitted, and continue so throughout their lives. Others in a few years become clever and skillful, not only in learning Christian doctrine (*teachings*) but in mastering trades, and they can be used to handle a boat, carry messages, and perform any other routine task. ...

The mulattoes (*bi-racial people*) are even more apt for every task; but many of them, taking advantage of the favor of their masters, are ... always ready for a brawl (*fight*) ... Yet they and the mulatto women commonly have it best of all (*the slaves*) in Brazil, because the white blood in their veins works such sorcery that some owners will tolerate and pardon anything they do ...

Some masters have the custom of giving their slaves one day a week to plant for themselves, sometimes sending the overseer along to see that they do not neglect their work; this helps to keep them from suffering hunger or from daily milling about the house of the master to beg him for a ration of flour.



PRIMARY SOURCE # 2

Silver Mining: The Potosi Mine in Peru
By Jose de Acosta (1590)

“It appears from the royal accounts of the House of Trade of Potosi ... silver was registered every Saturday to the value of 150 to 200,000 pesos, of which the King’s fifth came to 30 to 40,000 pesos, making a yearly total of about 1,500,000 pesos. According to this calculation, the value of the daily output of the mine was 30,000 pesos, of which the King’s share amounted to 6,000 pesos ... accounts have been kept of only the silver that was marked and taxed. But it is well known in Peru that for a long time the people of that country used the silver called “current” which was neither marked nor taxed. This leads me to believe that a third – if not one half – of the silver production of Potosi was neither registered nor taxed ... although the mines of Potosi have been dug to a depth of two hundred estados (*a measurement*), the miners have never encountered water, which is the greatest possible obstacle to profitable operations, whereas the mines of Porco, so rich in silver ore, have been abandoned because of the great quantity of water. For there are two intolerable burdens connected with the search for silver; the labor of digging and breaking the rock, and that of getting out the water – and the first of these is more than enough. ... at the present time His Catholic Majesty (*the king of Spain*) receives on the average a million pesos a year from his fifth of the silver of Potosi, not counting the considerable revenue (*large amount of money*) he derives from quicksilver and other (*mines*). ...

The hill of Potosi contains four principal veins (*main lines of silver*) ... By now all these mines are very deep. In the Rich vein there are seventy-eight mines; they are as deep as one hundred and eighty and even two hundred estados in some places. With the aid of these tunnels they get out the silver ore without difficulty, paying the owner of the tunnel a fifth of all the metal that is obtained. Nine tunnels have already been made, and others are being dug.

The tunnel called the Crucero is 250 yards in length, and its construction took twenty-nine years; this shows how much effort men make to get silver from the bowels of the earth. They labor there in perpetual (*constant*) darkness, not knowing day from night; and since the sun never penetrates these places, they are not only always dark but very cold, and the air is very thick and alien to the nature of men. ... The silver ore is generally of a flinty hardness, and they break it up with bars. Then they carry the ore on their backs up ladders made of three cords of twisted cowhide, joined by pieces of wood that serve as the rungs ...



Learning from Primary Sources



SOURCE # 1

Tell what you learned about the jobs, lives, and responsibilities of each person by reading this source:

Plantation owner - _____

Chaplain - _____

Overseer - _____

Mulatto - _____

Slave - _____

What else did you learn about life in Colonial Latin America? - _____

SOURCE # 2

Based upon information in this source, why do you think mining was so important in Colonial Latin America? Explain your answer. - _____

Why were slaves important to mining operations and other forms of labor in Latin America? Explain. - _____
