## Life on a Cotton Plantation

"Cotton picking began in August. An unskilful slave would have to pick 100 kilos of cotton a day, but a good picker would be whipped if they did not pick twice as much. Slaves had to be in the field as soon as it was light and could not stop until it was too dark to see. The only time for rest was just 10 minutes to eat. They did not dare to stop until they were told to. The baskets of cotton were weighed at the end of the day. If there was not enough, the slave was whipped. If there was lots, he would have to pick just as much tomorrow. After this, there was still work to do. Some fed the horses, others cut the wood. At last, they got to their huts and could eat. Each slave had a little bacon and corn for the week. They would finally get to sleep at midnight. An hour before daylight, the horn is blown. The slave wakes and eats their breakfast before they hurry to the field. They are whipped for being late. Then the fears and work of another day begin. Fear he will be seen resting, M fear to weigh the cotton, fear he will oversleep in the morning.

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