

THE AMERICAS LEVEL 1



BLACK RESISTANCE

ORGANISED UPRISINGS

WELCOME TO BLACK RESISTANCE LEVEL 1, LESSON 2: ORGANISED UPRISINGS

IN THIS LESSON, YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

- THE MOST FAMOUS UPRISINGS AGAINST SLAVERY
- THE METHODS AFRICANS WOULD USE DURING UPRISINGS

OBJECTIVES

BY THE END OF THIS LESSON, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND:

1. THE NAMES, DATES AND LOCATIONS OF VARIOUS UPRISINGS
2. THE NAMES OF SOME FAMOUS LEADERS

A number of organised uprisings against slavery occurred on the plantations of North and South America as well as in the Caribbean.

These uprisings also occurred on the ships carrying Africans across the Atlantic. Africans, who often spoke different languages as they were from a variety of kingdoms and empires, managed to effectively coordinate and defend themselves against the horrors of slavery. On the next slide is a table detailing some of the most famous uprisings.



UPRISING	YEAR	LOCATION
Revolt against Don Diego Colón	1522	Dominican Republic
Pee Dee River Revolt	1526	USA
Gaspar Yanga Uprising	1570	Mexico
Maroon Revolt	1655	Jamaica
The Maroon Wars	1664-1738	Jamaica
Bacon's Rebellion	1676	USA
Palmares Revolt	1695	Brazil
Saint John Rebellion	1733	Saint John, Virgin Islands
Tacky's Rebellion	1760	Jamaica
The Haitian Revolution	1791-1804	Haiti
Bussa's Rebellion	1816	Barbados
Demerara Uprising	1823	Guyana
Nat Turner's Rebellion	1831	USA
The Baptist War	1831-1832	Jamaica
The Amistad Rebellion	1839	Atlantic Ocean (Ship Revolt)

The enslaved Africans would use various methods of communication to organise these uprisings. Singing and music was often used to convey messages unbeknownst to the slave drivers on the plantation. The enslaved would also meet in secret, gathering in the middle of the night away from the plantation.



A small number of the enslaved were also afforded certain “privileges” and were permitted to read and write. These were usually those that were enslaved to work in the houses of the estate. Some were even allowed to travel to different plantations if they were a Biblical preacher. These “privileged” captives often led uprisings, such as **Toussaint L’Ouverture** who led the Haitian Revolution, **Nat Turner**, who led a rebellion in Virginia, and **Sam Sharpe**, who led the Baptist War.

