

[“Slavery and the Northern Economy”](#) is a Learning for Justice podcast (with a written transcript) in which Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara explains why American slavery couldn't have existed without a national commercial infrastructure that supported and benefited from the labor of enslaved people. Sample questions:

1. Why did the Hasan Kwame Jeffries long consider slavery in America to have been a “Southern thing?” Do you think most Americans share this belief? Why?
2. What are some of the ways in which Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara says that people “misunderstand the institution of slavery” when they simply think of it as confined to the South and on plantations? Describe at least three misconceptions.
3. Dr. Clark-Pujara argues that it is harmful to ignore the existence and impact of slavery in Northern states. Why?
4. How did the cultivation of sugar by enslaved persons on plantations located in the Caribbean and the American Deep South involve Northern states, companies, and people? How did the North (and all of America) support the enslavement of Black people in these plantations?
5. Dr. Clark-Pujara uses the story of the slave ship *Adventure* to illustrate multiple ways that the Northern workers and businesses directly profited off of the Atlantic Slave Trade. Describe at least three ways.
6. Dr. Clark-Pujara makes the point that all of us are directly connected to slavery in ways we often don't realize and uses the history and business of jeans as an example. Briefly describe how each of these groups or individuals were involved in the production of jeans AND the institution of slavery:
  - a. Enslaved African Americans in the Southern United States:
  - b. New York banks:
  - c. Northern textile factories:
  - d. Northern textile workers:
  - e. Owners of steamships and other forms of mass transportation:
  - f. Americans living throughout the country who did not own enslaved persons:
7. Why do you think students (and adults) are not taught about the role of slavery in building all of America and the ways that slavery impacts all Americans?