

Viewing Questions for *Slavery and the Making of America: The Downward Spiral*

(For more information on the documentary, you can visit the following website: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/slavery/>)

1. Describe the population of New Amsterdam in the 1620s. Who did the work? Who controlled the workers? Where did workers go to meet and to talk?
2. How did the Dutch acquire the slaves they brought to New Amsterdam? What is meant by term “Atlantic Creole?”
3. What are some of the rights enslaved people had in New Amsterdam? Beside religious conviction, why did many slaves become Christian?
4. What was “half-freedom?” Compare and contrast it to slavery.
5. Describe some of the difficulties facing the free black population in colonial America. What were some the challenges to family life?

