Reading a rule, checking a record

Upper-secondary / introductory university; suggested 20-25 minutes. Adapt to your group.

A proposed learning activity, not a classroom-tested or curriculum-accredited resource. Prepared with AI assistance.

Learning goals

- Distinguish an announced rule from its implementation and effects.

- Explain why a correct sum does not prove a transcription is correct.

The activity concerns slavery and colonial record-keeping. Historical category labels are discussed as source terms, not endorsed descriptions of people.

Two sources

A. The ordinance of 16 March 1792, clause 1: identify the announced starting year of the trade restriction. Read the linked primary text or the site's short reading; do not confuse a trade restriction with emancipation.

B. The permitted 1792 St. Croix excerpt: the recorded categories are read as 54 and 32, with a total of 86. The reading and later visual comparison are AI-assisted, not independent human ground truth.

1. Two dates, two questions

Record the ordinance's date and the year when its restriction was to begin. Why are these different dates useful for different questions?

2. What does the source establish?

Name one claim supported by the ordinance and one question about actual behaviour or living conditions it cannot answer alone.

3. A limited numerical check

Calculate 54 + 32 and compare it with 86. What does agreement check? Give one reason why it does not establish transcription accuracy.

4. From categories to people

Who created the count and for what administrative purpose? If that purpose is not established by the excerpt, say so. Name one additional source you would seek.

Exit sentence: This source supports ___, but to establish ___ I would also need ___.

Sources and companion pages

A: Christian VII ordinance, clause 1, printed collection (1792), pp. 69-71, via Danmarkshistorien/Lex. B: Rigsarkivet, St. Croix General Tabell, 31 December 1792; epid 20201795, bsid 292226, imageID 58788329. The companion page carries the permitted crops, provenance, CSV and limits.

https://danishwestindies.org/history/1792-abolition-decree/

https://danishwestindies.org/source-to-data/