Teacher notes: 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.

Preparation and pacing

Open the two linked readings or supply the printed pages. Suggest 3 minutes for context, 7 for pairs to read and answer, 7 for discussion and 3 for the exit sentence. No account or AI tool is required.

Possible responses: questions 1-2

16 March 1792 is the ordinance date; the restriction was to start in 1803. Announcement may matter for expectations; implementation is another event. The text supports the announced legal provision, not its enforcement, a price response, improved health or the end of slavery. Accept different well-supported questions.

Possible responses: question 3

54 + 32 = 86. This checks internal arithmetic agreement only. Misread entries can still add up; a source total can itself be wrong; labels or row alignment may be mistaken. A second reading of the original and a recorded disagreement process would be stronger evidence than repeating the sum.

Possible responses: question 4

The excerpt alone does not identify every official or establish the complete administrative process. Reward recognition of that limit. Seek the document's title, provenance and surrounding instructions; personal experiences require other kinds of evidence. Do not infer personal identity or ancestry from the categories.

Facilitation and formative check

Contextualize colonial terms without asking learners to impersonate historical people. Assess whether the exit sentence separates a supported claim from missing evidence, not whether it repeats a preferred interpretation. Allow written or spoken responses and more reading time as needed.

Limits and extension

No classroom outcomes have been measured. The separate linkage methods note can extend the discussion: a number-derived alias is not independent name evidence. That note and this three-cell exercise concern different checks; the exercise does not demonstrate a successful linkage.

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/

https://danishwestindies.org/methods/linkage/