

We and They in Colonial America

[Reading Link](#)

Directions: Click the reading link to access the reading. Click in the gray box to start typing your answer. Upload to Google Classroom

Connection Questions

1. What qualities gave someone status and power in seventeenth-century Virginia? How had that changed by the 1670s? Why might the Virginia legislature have restricted the freedom of people of African descent? What role do you think economics played in these new restrictions?
 - 1.
2. Were Anthony Johnson and Elizabeth Key included in Virginia's universe of obligation during their lifetimes? What people and institutions played a part in defining the colony's universe of obligation?
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3. What do you think the jury meant when it labeled Anthony Johnson's son an "alien"? Where does that label place Anthony Johnson's family in relation to Virginia's universe of obligation? What consequences might a person who is labeled an alien face?
 - 1.
4. What do the stories of Anthony Johnson and Elizabeth Key suggest about the role of law in creating the "other"? How might laws about the "other" give legitimacy to discrimination?
5. What questions does this reading raise for you about the notion of race and its effect on society? How does it complicate your understanding of the history of racism and slavery in North America?
 - 1.