

# Social Relations

## Slaves vs slaves

By a strategy of divide and conquer the planter managed to keep the slaves apart. Each group resented the other. The domestics felt that they were the best of the lot because they worked in the Great House and enjoyed 'better working conditions', ate leftovers from the master's table, wore his 'hand me downs' and lived in huts closer to the Great House. Slavery left them with very little time for themselves much more time to relate to each other.

## When did they relate to each other?

1. Holidays : Christmas and Easter or 'pickney Christmas' in games and festivals such as Johncanoe
2. When exchanging items such as craft items from the artisans for ground provisions from the field slaves
3. At funerals and wakes when and if they could manage to have these
4. Midwives at the birth process
5. Obeahmen administering medicine or being visited for help.
6. Field slaves related to each other during lunchtime or after work if they were not too tired they would tell Anansi stories.
7. Nannies and old women related more regularly with the children. Some combed their hair, told stories etc.,
8. At the Saturday market. They would meet 'friends' from other plantations and catch up on the latest gossip.
9. The newly arrived slave in the care of the older Creole slave provided an excellent opportunity for both persons to relate without arousing much suspicion
10. Christian slaves who were appointed as deacons/leaders in charge of small clusters of other Christians. Somewhere during the Church schedules and meeting, they found the time to do their own relating.