

# **Images from the Slave Experience in Brazil**

This painting shows women with slaves making lace.

The female slaves who arrived in Brazil were relegated to very different duties than were the men who greatly outnumbered them. Women cooked in plantation kitchens, served as wet-nurses and babysitters for the masters' children, worked as domestic servants in city homes, and sold food on the streets to earn extra money.



This painting shows “Escravas de ganho” or slaves who profit. Records show that Afro-Brazilian women were selling food on the street as far back as 1802. As slaves, the women were known as “escravas de ganho”—they sold food on the street and paid a percentage of their profits to their owners for the right to do so. Urban slaves often sold food, including fruit and vegetables, baked goods, dried meat and African-style dishes, to other slaves and to freed Africans, who generally flocked to the cities looking for work.

