Voices for Freedom

How Black abolitionists helped challenge slavery

SS24.4.13b "Describe the influence of abolitionists, including enslaved persons and self-liberated Black Americans, on efforts to end slavery in the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions taken by enslaved or self-liberated people. Circle the words that show how those actions helped the effort to end slavery.

Actions That Changed Minds

1. In the United States, slavery forced millions of Black people to work without freedom. Enslaved people did not wait quietly for others to act. Some resisted unfair orders, found ways to learn, or escaped. People who escaped could tell others what life in slavery was really like. Their accounts gave abolitionists, people working to end slavery, powerful proof to share in speeches, newspapers, and meetings.

2. Frederick Douglass escaped slavery in 1838. He became a speaker and writer who told crowds about his own life under slavery. He also published an antislavery newspaper called The North Star. His words challenged people who claimed slavery was acceptable. Readers and listeners could hear directly from a Black American who had lived through slavery, not just from people speaking about others.

3. Harriet Tubman escaped slavery in 1849. She returned to the South many times to guide other enslaved people to freedom through a secret network now called the Underground Railroad. Each person who reached freedom could build a new life, and Tubman's actions showed others that they could help fight slavery. Abolitionists also asked lawmakers to end slavery. Together, these efforts kept the demand for freedom in public view.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did accounts from people who escaped slavery strengthen abolitionists' work?

2. How did Frederick Douglass use speaking and writing to change people's views of slavery?

3. How did Harriet Tubman's actions help people escaping slavery and show others a way to fight it?

4. How did abolitionists try to change both people's minds and lawmakers' actions?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence invitation to an antislavery meeting in the 1850s. Include two different actions from the passage that helped challenge slavery, and ask guests to take one action to support ending it.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions taken by enslaved or self-liberated people. Circle the words that show how those actions helped the effort to end slavery. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did accounts from people who escaped slavery strengthen abolitionists' work?	**Their accounts gave abolitionists firsthand proof to share in speeches, newspapers, and meetings.**
2	How did Frederick Douglass use speaking and writing to change people's views of slavery?	**He told crowds about his life under slavery and published an antislavery newspaper, challenging the claim that slavery was acceptable.**
3	How did Harriet Tubman's actions help people escaping slavery and show others a way to fight it?	**She guided enslaved people to freedom. Her actions showed others that they could help fight slavery.**
4	How did abolitionists try to change both people's minds and lawmakers' actions?	**They shared accounts in speeches and newspapers to change minds, and they asked lawmakers to end slavery.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Come to our meeting to learn how Frederick Douglass uses speeches to tell the truth about slavery. Hear how Harriet Tubman guides enslaved people to freedom. After the meeting, ask lawmakers to end slavery.

Accept other accurate examples of actions and their influence that are supported by the passage. For the invitation, look for three sentences, two different actions, and a specific request to support ending slavery.