

Voices for Freedom

Examine people and actions in the abolitionist movement.

SS.5.AA.1.3 "Examine key figures and events in abolitionist movements."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each key figure or group, and circle words that tell what the person or group did or how the action affected the movement.

Actions Against Slavery

- ① In the early 1800s, abolitionists worked to end slavery in the United States. Some spoke at meetings, printed newspapers, or gathered signatures for petitions. Frederick Douglass, who had escaped slavery, became a powerful speaker and writer. In his newspaper, *The North Star*, he described slavery's cruelty and argued that African Americans deserved equal rights. His words gave readers reasons to oppose slavery.
- ② Other people took dangerous action. Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and then returned to the South many times. She guided enslaved people toward freedom through a secret network called the Underground Railroad. Tubman used careful planning and trusted helpers to avoid capture. Her trips helped people reach free states and Canada. They also showed that enslaved people resisted slavery and sought control of their own lives.
- ③ The abolitionist movement used many methods, but it faced strong opposition. In 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act required officials and citizens to help capture people who had escaped slavery. The law put freedom seekers in greater danger. Abolitionists protested the law, aided people fleeing slavery, and continued to publish antislavery ideas. These actions increased conflict over slavery before the Civil War began in 1861.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Frederick Douglass use his newspaper to support the abolitionist movement?

2 What did Harriet Tubman do after she escaped slavery, and what was one result of her actions?

3 How did the Fugitive Slave Act make the work of abolitionists more difficult?

4 Compare one method used by Douglass with one method used by Tubman. How did both methods challenge slavery?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one abolitionist method from the passage. Write 3 or 4 sentences explaining how you would use that method, what specific action you would take, and how your action could influence other people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each key figure or group, and circle words that tell what the person or group did or how the action affected the movement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Frederick Douglass use his newspaper to support the abolitionist movement?	He described the cruelty of slavery and argued that African Americans deserved equal rights, giving readers reasons to oppose slavery.
2	What did Harriet Tubman do after she escaped slavery, and what was one result of her actions?	She returned to the South and guided enslaved people toward freedom. Her trips helped people reach free states and Canada.
3	How did the Fugitive Slave Act make the work of abolitionists more difficult?	The law required officials and citizens to help capture people who had escaped slavery, putting freedom seekers in greater danger.
4	Compare one method used by Douglass with one method used by Tubman. How did both methods challenge slavery?	Douglass used writing and speaking to persuade people to oppose slavery, while Tubman guided people to freedom. Both challenged slavery by resisting it and supporting enslaved people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would write a newspaper article against slavery. I would explain how the Fugitive Slave Act placed freedom seekers in danger. Readers could learn why the law was unfair and join a protest. More public opposition could increase pressure to change the law.

Accept a method from the passage, such as writing, speaking, petitioning, guiding people to freedom, protesting, or aiding freedom seekers. The response should name a specific action and a reasonable effect on people or the movement.