

# Pressure for Freedom

Evaluate how abolitionists used different methods to challenge slavery.

**SS.68.AA.2.6** "Evaluate various abolitionist movements that continuously pushed to end slavery."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each abolitionist method, then write G, E, or L beside details that show its goal, effect, or limitation.

### Many Paths to Abolition

- ① From the late 1700s, free Black people and white allies formed antislavery societies in northern states. Some members used petitions and state laws to seek gradual emancipation, which freed enslaved people over time. In the 1830s, a more urgent movement demanded immediate abolition. William Lloyd Garrison's newspaper, *The Liberator*, attacked slavery and spread antislavery arguments. Black writers and speakers, including David Walker and Maria W. Stewart, insisted that African Americans should speak for their own freedom.
- ② Abolitionists built networks that reached beyond speeches and newspapers. Free Black communities organized meetings, raised money, and protected people escaping slavery. Harriet Tubman guided many freedom seekers toward safer places through the Underground Railroad, a secret network rather than an actual railroad. Formerly enslaved speakers such as Frederick Douglass described slavery to audiences and challenged racist claims. These efforts made slavery harder to ignore, but escape routes helped only a small share of enslaved people, while federal laws often supported slaveholders.
- ③ Other abolitionists tried to change national policy. They flooded Congress with antislavery petitions, even after the House adopted a gag rule that automatically set such petitions aside. Political groups including the Liberty Party argued that slavery should not expand into western territories. During the Civil War, abolitionists pressed President Abraham Lincoln to connect Union victory with emancipation. The Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment showed major progress, yet the long campaign required persistent pressure and did not end racial inequality.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How did the goal of gradual emancipation differ from the goal of immediate abolition?

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**2** Evaluate the Underground Railroad. What was one strength of this effort and one limitation?

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**3** What does the House gag rule show about opposition to abolition, and how did abolitionists respond?

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**4** What two outcomes from the Civil War era support the conclusion that abolitionist pressure influenced national policy?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

In exactly three sentences, judge which abolitionist approach in the passage was most important. Use two details from the passage to support your judgment and explain one limitation or obstacle the approach faced.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each abolitionist method, then write G, E, or L beside details that show its goal, effect, or limitation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                               | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                           |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did the goal of gradual emancipation differ from the goal of immediate abolition?                                  | <b>Gradual emancipation aimed to free enslaved people over time. Immediate abolition demanded that slavery end at once.</b>                                      |
| 2 | Evaluate the Underground Railroad. What was one strength of this effort and one limitation?                            | <b>It helped freedom seekers reach safer places and made resistance possible. However, it helped only a small share of enslaved people.</b>                      |
| 3 | What does the House gag rule show about opposition to abolition, and how did abolitionists respond?                    | <b>The gag rule shows that some lawmakers tried to silence antislavery action. Abolitionists kept sending, or flooding Congress with, antislavery petitions.</b> |
| 4 | What two outcomes from the Civil War era support the conclusion that abolitionist pressure influenced national policy? | <b>The Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment support that conclusion.</b>                                                                       |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Political pressure on the federal government was the most important approach because abolitionists continued to send petitions even when the House used the gag rule. During the Civil War, they pressed Lincoln to connect Union victory with emancipation. However, this approach faced resistance from federal laws that often supported slaveholders.

Accept any defensible judgment that names an approach, supports it with two accurate passage details, and explains an accurate limitation or obstacle. Students may choose a different approach if their evidence and reasoning are sound.