Paths to Freedom

How abolitionists challenged slavery in different ways

8.C.10.3 "Summarize the impact of the Abolitionist Movement on the institution of slavery. Assess the impact of the work of notable abolitionists, such as Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Sojourner Truth..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three different methods used to fight slavery, circle a person linked to each method, and write matching numbers beside each method and its effect.

Many Ways to Challenge Slavery

1. By the 1830s, abolitionists were organizing to end slavery in the United States, not merely make it less cruel. William Lloyd Garrison published *The Liberator*, a newspaper that demanded immediate emancipation and kept the issue before readers. Frederick Douglass, who had escaped slavery, spoke and wrote about the violence and injustice he had experienced. His firsthand account challenged claims that enslaved people were content. Together, abolitionist newspapers and speeches drew supporters into the movement and intensified national arguments over slavery, even as slaveholders resisted their demands.

2. Sojourner Truth, a formerly enslaved speaker, linked the struggle against slavery to the struggle for women's rights. She challenged audiences to recognize the strength and humanity of Black women. In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe published *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a novel that portrayed the suffering caused by slavery and family separation. The book reached a wide audience and helped build antislavery feeling in the North, while many supporters of slavery attacked it. Neither Truth's speeches nor Stowe's novel changed the law on its own, but both pushed more people to confront slavery.

3. Meanwhile, the Underground Railroad grew as a secret network of routes and helpers, not a train or a single organization. Free and enslaved Black people, along with other allies, hid and guided people escaping slavery. After escaping herself, Harriet Tubman returned to the South repeatedly to lead others toward freedom, risking capture each time. These escapes directly weakened enslavers' control over individuals and inspired opponents of slavery. Yet the network could not free everyone. Abolitionists' combined efforts increased pressure against slavery, but slavery ended nationally only after the Civil War and the Thirteenth Amendment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Garrison's newspaper and Douglass's firsthand accounts challenge slavery in different ways?

2. How did Truth's speeches and Stowe's novel help build opposition to slavery?

3. Why could the Underground Railroad affect an enslaved person more directly than a novel could? Include Tubman's role.

4. How did abolitionists weaken slavery, and why did their efforts not end it by themselves?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a museum can feature only one strategy: public speeches, printed words, or escape networks. Write a 70 to 95 word exhibit label arguing which could make the greatest immediate difference to an enslaved person, comparing it with another strategy, naming at least two people from the passage, and explaining why these efforts did not end slavery by themselves.

ANSWER KEY

Paths to Freedom

GRADE 8 · 8.C.10.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three different methods used to fight slavery, circle a person linked to each method, and write matching numbers beside each method and its effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Garrison's newspaper and Douglass's firsthand accounts challenge slavery in different ways?	**Garrison's newspaper demanded immediate emancipation and kept the issue before readers. Douglass's accounts exposed slavery's violence and challenged claims that enslaved people were content.**
2	How did Truth's speeches and Stowe's novel help build opposition to slavery?	**Truth called attention to the strength and humanity of Black women. Stowe's novel showed the suffering slavery caused and helped build antislavery feeling in the North.**
3	Why could the Underground Railroad affect an enslaved person more directly than a novel could? Include Tubman's role.	**The network helped individuals escape slavery, and Tubman repeatedly guided people toward freedom. A novel could change readers' views but did not itself help someone escape.**
4	How did abolitionists weaken slavery, and why did their efforts not end it by themselves?	**Their words built opposition, and escape networks weakened enslavers' control over individuals. Slaveholders resisted, the network could not free everyone, and slavery ended nationally only after the Civil War and the Thirteenth Amendment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Escape networks could make the greatest immediate difference because they helped particular people reach freedom. Harriet Tubman risked capture to guide people out of the South. Printed words worked differently. Frederick Douglass's accounts exposed slavery's violence and drew support for abolition, but reading them did not immediately free someone. Both strategies challenged enslavers' power, one through escapes and the other through public pressure. Still, many people remained enslaved, and slaveholders resisted abolition. Slavery ended nationally only after the Civil War and the Thirteenth Amendment.

Accept supported judgments about immediate impact, including an argument for speeches or print that clearly distinguishes their effect from escape. Responses must compare two strategies, name two people, and acknowledge that abolitionist efforts alone did not end slavery nationally.