

Summary: The Struggle for Freedom

The Antislavery Movement

Some Americans felt slavery was necessary. In the South, as cotton farming spread, slavery also spread. Other Americans felt slavery was wrong. Some thought that enslaving people went against the ideas of Christianity.

The Abolitionist movement to end slavery grew in the 1830s and 1840s. Abolitionists lived in the North and the South. Abolitionists included free blacks and whites, women and men. They wrote and spoke against slavery. William Lloyd Garrison started an Abolitionist newspaper called *The Liberator*.

Frederick Douglass escaped slavery. He spoke to white people about his experience as a slave. Sojourner Truth also escaped slavery. She spoke in favor of abolition and women's rights. Sarah and Angelina Grimké grew up in a Southern slaveowning family. They traveled North and spoke out against slavery.

By 1860, about 500,000 free blacks lived in the United States. They faced discrimination in both the North and South. Free blacks joined whites in creating the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833.

The Underground Railroad

Some Abolitionists worked in secret. Free blacks gave most of the money and did most of the work to support the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a series of escape routes and hiding places called "stations." Runaways could leave the United States and go north to Canada or south to Mexico, Florida, or the Caribbean. If they were caught, they were returned to slavery and punished. People who guided runaways were called "conductors." The most famous conductor was Harriet Tubman. She escaped slavery and then returned 19 times to the South to lead others to freedom.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

abolitionist *noun*, someone who worked to abolish, or end, slavery

discrimination *noun*, the unfair treatment of particular groups

Underground Railroad *noun*, a series of escape routes and hiding places to bring people out of slavery



After You Read

REVIEW What did free blacks in the North do to convince people that slavery was wrong? Circle the names of people who took an active part in the abolitionist movement. Underline the actions these people took to help enslaved people. Also underline sentences that tell what all free blacks did to fight slavery.

REVIEW What was the purpose of the Underground Railroad? Draw a box around two sentences that explain what the Underground Railroad was and what it was used for.