

# Summary: The Struggle for Freedom

## The Antislavery Movement

Some Americans felt slavery was necessary. In the South, as cotton growing spread, many people also wanted slavery to spread. Other Americans felt slavery was wrong. Some thought that enslaving people went against their religious beliefs.

The Abolitionist movement to end slavery grew in the 1830s and 1840s. There were Abolitionists in the North and the South. Abolitionists were free blacks and whites, women and men. They wrote and spoke against slavery. William Lloyd Garrison started an Abolitionist newspaper called *The Liberator*. Free blacks gave most of the money to support the newspaper.

Frederick Douglass escaped slavery. He spoke to white people about what it was like to be enslaved. Sojourner Truth also escaped slavery. She spoke for abolition and women's rights. At the Women's Rights Convention in Ohio in 1851, Truth disagreed with people who said women were too delicate to be equal to men. She explained how hard her life had been and asked "and ain't I a woman?"

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 joined the movement to 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.