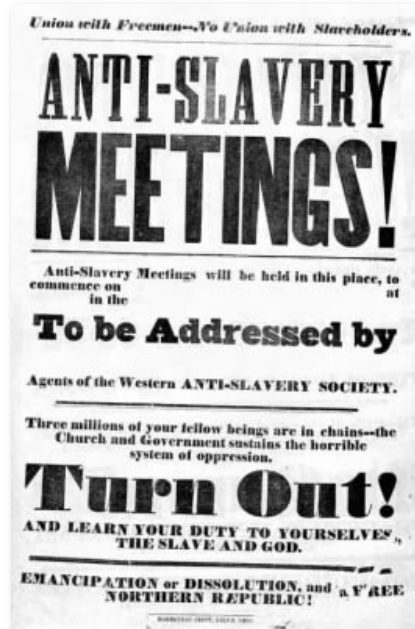


Power Point Accompaniment for "American Abolitionists"



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Exploring Primary Source Documents

- What do you first notice about the document provided to you? What strikes you?
- What is the purpose of this document?
- Who do you think created this document? What evidence makes you think this?
- What can we learn about the institution of slavery and the lives of enslaved people from this document?
- Specifically, what does this advertisement tell us about Emily or Tom? What inferences can you make regarding this person's life, personality, ambitions, skills, etc.?

100 DOLLARS REWARD!

Ranaway from the subscriber on the 27th of July, my Black Woman, named

EMILY,

Seventeen years of age, well grown, black color, has a whining voice. She took with her one dark calico and one blue and white dress, a red corded gingham bonnet; a white striped shawl and slippers. I will pay the above reward if taken near the Ohio river on the Kentucky side, or **THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS**, if taken in the State of Ohio, and delivered to me near Lewisburg, Mason County, Ky.

THO'S. H. WILLIAMS.

August 4, 1853.

\$150 REWARD.

RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of Monday the 11th July, a negro man named

TOM,

about 30 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high; of dark color; heavy in the chest; several of his jaw teeth out; and upon his body are several old marks of the whip, one of them straight down the back. He took with him a quantity of clothing, and several hats.

A reward of \$150 will be paid for his apprehension and security, if taken out of the State of Kentucky; \$100 if taken in any county bordering on the Ohio river; \$50 if taken in any of the interior counties except Fayette; or \$20 if taken in the latter county.

july 12-84-tf

B. L. BOSTON.

CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the

**Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,**

For since the recent **ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN**, they are empowered to act as

KIDNAPPERS

AND

Slave Catchers,

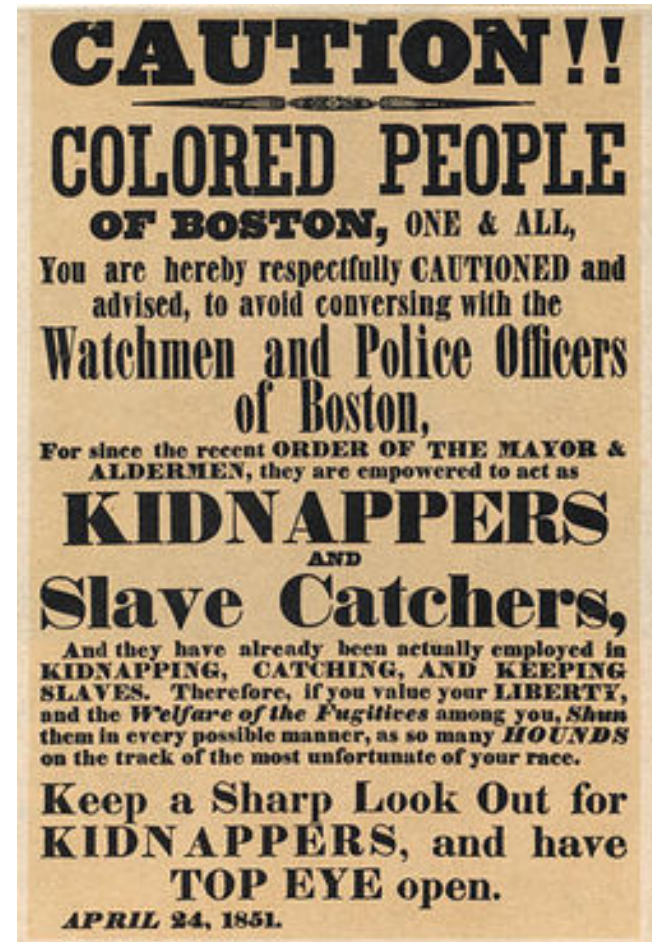
And they have already been actually employed in **KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES**. Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY**, and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many **HOUNDS** on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

**Keep a Sharp Look Out for
KIDNAPPERS, and have
TOP EYE open.**

APRIL 24, 1851.

The Fugitive Slave Act/Law

- The number of successful runaway slaves prompted Congress to pass the infamous Act in 1850 in an attempt to recapture slaves who escaped to the North, as well as to deter slaves considering running away.
- As a result, both enslaved and free blacks were arrested, since the only proof needed for capture was the slave owners' sworn testimony.
- Additionally, blacks could not defend themselves in a court of law to prove their freedom.
- Thus, unscrupulous marshals kidnapped blacks solely for the reward money, even if they owned documents attesting their freedom.
- After the Fugitive Slave Law's passage, the safety of free blacks became even more tenuous.
- Advertisements such as this one were created by **abolitionists** to warn people of the pending danger.



Resistance to Slavery

- To the best of their ability, given each of their individual circumstances, those enslaved resisted the unjust situation they were in. Efforts of resistance were varied among slaves:
- Covert methods of sabotaging or breaking machines and collectively working at a slower pace were employed.
- As evidenced in the advertisements examined at the start of the lesson, slaves would also attempt to escape.
- Sometimes, even more dangerous overt resistance was demonstrated, such as open defiance to a master or even slave revolts and rebellions. It is estimated that over two hundred separate slave revolts and conspiracies took place from the 1600's to the end of the U.S. Civil War in 1865, although it is impossible to know just how many passive or "invisible" acts of resistance took place among the slaves.
- At its most basic level, the very act of resistance aimed to restore a sense of dignity lost to slaves by the institution's tyranny.
- In addition to those enslaved fight for their own freedom, many freed Blacks, escaped slaves, and members of the white community (North and South) advocated in various ways for the end of slavery and assisted slaves in escaping.
- These **abolitionists** used a variety of strategies and tactics to fight for social justice during the 1800s.

Union with Freemen--No Union with Slaveholders.

ANTI-SLAVERY MEETINGS!

Anti-Slavery Meetings will be held in this place, to
commence on _____ at _____
in the _____

To be Addressed by

Agents of the Western ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Three millions of your fellow beings are in chains--the
Church and Government sustains the horrible
system of oppression.

Turn Out!

AND LEARN YOUR DUTY TO YOURSELVES,
THE SLAVE AND GOD.

EMANCIPATION or DISSOLUTION, and a FREE
NORTHERN REPUBLIC!

The American Abolitionist Movement

- Who were some leading abolitionists, either who were mentioned in the article or who you've learned about before? What strategies did they use to resist slavery? What facilitated and constrained their actions?
- It has been said that the pen is mightier than the sword. Do you think it was more effective for abolitionists to participate in armed rebellions, or to advocate through non-violent means, such as through anti-slavery writings? Explain.
- What was the constitutional and legal context that framed and legalized slavery?
 - Article I, Section 2 - Slaves count as 3/5 persons
 - Article I, Section 9, clause 1 - No power to ban slavery until 1808
 - Article IV, Section, 2 - Free states cannot protect slaves
 - Article V - No Constitutional Amendment to Ban Slavery Until 1808
 - Gag rule instituted in 1836, tabling all petitions to end slavery
 - Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 – slaves were to be returned to masters
 - Dred Scott v Sandford* (1857), ruled that Congress lacked the power to prohibit slavery in its territories and that slaves had no rights in the courts.
- In many ways, abolitionists were often breaking the law by assisting runaways and/or advocating for emancipation. What risks were people taking by involving themselves in the abolitionist movement?

OUTRAGE.

Fellow Citizens,

AN

ABOLITIONIST,

of the most revolting character is among you, exciting the feelings of the North against the South. A seditious Lecture is to be delivered

THIS EVENING,

at 7 o'clock, at the Presbyterian Church in Cannon-street.

You are requested to attend and unite in putting down and silencing by peaceable means this tool of evil and fanaticism.

Let the rights of the States guaranteed by the Constitution be protected.

Feb. 27, 1837. *The Union forever!*

Create a Digital Picture Frame Representing an Abolitionist

