

**Essential Question**

How did abolitionists influence the antislavery movement?

**Reading Guide****Content Vocabulary**

abolitionist (p. 425)

Underground Railroad (p. 430)

**Academic Vocabulary**

route (p. 430)

medical (p. 431)

**Key People and Events**

American Colonization Society (p. 425)

William Lloyd Garrison (p. 426)

Sarah Grimké (p. 427)

Angelina Grimké (p. 427)

David Walker (p. 428)

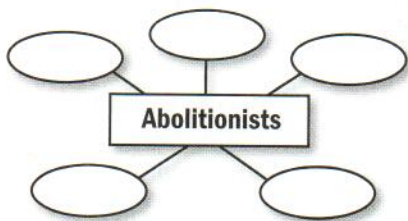
Frederick Douglass (p. 428)

Sojourner Truth (p. 429)

Elijah Lovejoy (p. 431)

**Reading Strategy**

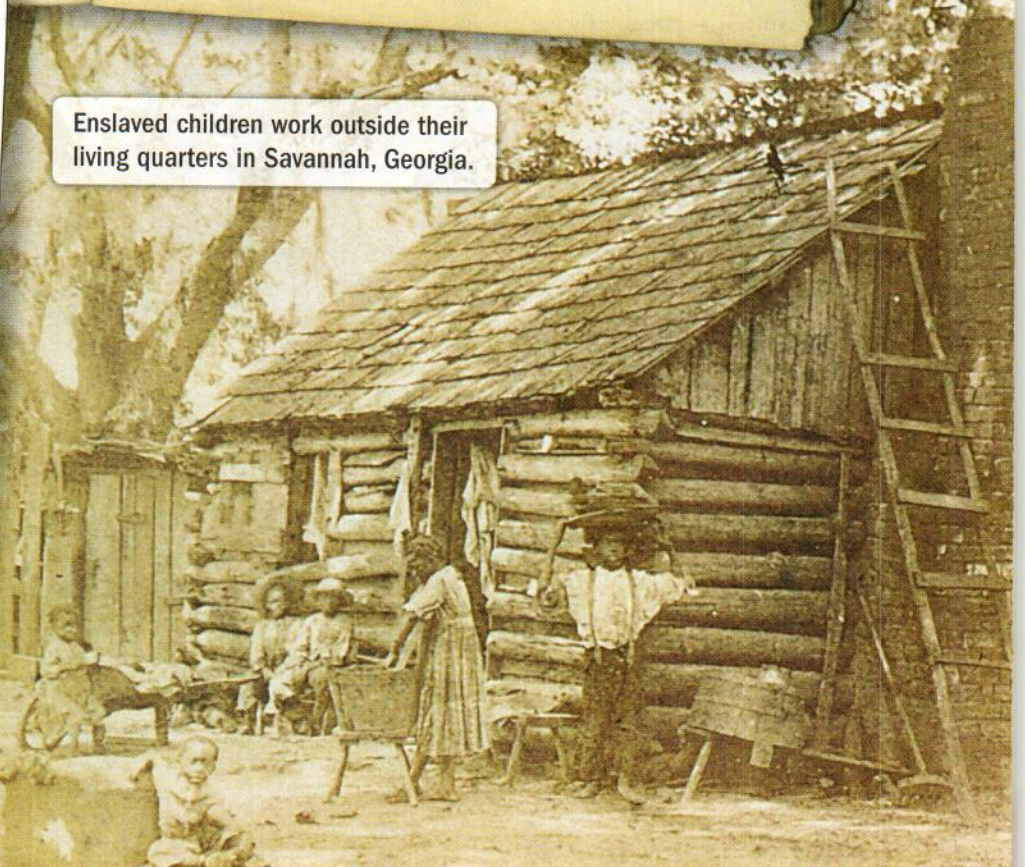
**Taking Notes** As you read, use a diagram like the one below to identify five abolitionists. Below each name, write a brief description of his or her role in the movement.

**American Diary**

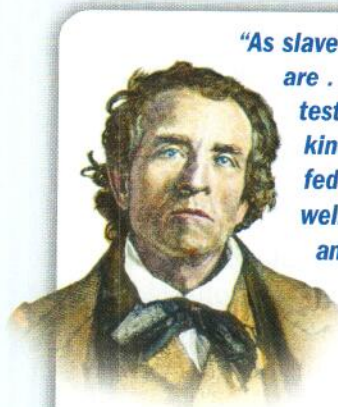
Sojourner Truth was an enslaved woman who gained her freedom in 1827. Although she lacked a formal education, her eloquent and deeply religious antislavery speeches attracted huge crowds. Truth believed that just as African Americans deserved equal rights, so too did women. Sojourner Truth's most famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?", was given in Akron, Ohio, in 1851. Truth asked, "I have plowed and reaped and husked and chopped and mowed, and can any man do more than that?"

—quoted in *Sojourner Truth As Orator*

Enslaved children work outside their living quarters in Savannah, Georgia.



**Different Views** In the 1820s, antislavery sentiment strengthened in the North. Abolitionists formed the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833. The Society attacked slavery in its literature and speeches. In response, Southerners developed a theory to defend slavery.



*“As slaveholders and their apologists are . . . flooding the world with testimony that their slaves are kindly treated; that they are well fed, well clothed, well housed, well lodged, moderately worked, and bountifully provided with all things needful for their comfort. . . . We will prove that the slaves in the United States are treated with barbarous inhumanity.”*

▲ Theodore Weld

—from *American Slavery As It Is*



▲ In an announcement for a meeting of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier was included:

*“On, woman! from thy happy hearth  
Extend thy gentle hand to save  
The poor and perishing of earth—  
The chained and stricken slave!  
Oh, plead for all the suffering of thy kind—  
For the crushed body and the darkened mind.”*

## African American Abolitionists

African Americans also played a major role in the abolitionist movement. The abolition of slavery was an especially important goal to the free African Americans of the North.

Most African Americans in the North lived in poverty in cities. They were excluded from most jobs. White mobs often attacked them. These African Americans, however, were proud of their freedom, and many wanted to help those who were still enslaved.

African Americans helped organize and direct the American Anti-Slavery Society. They subscribed in large numbers to *The Liberator*. In 1827 Samuel Cornish and John Russwurm started the country’s first African American newspaper, *Freedom’s Journal*.

Born a free man in North Carolina, writer **David Walker** of Boston published his argument against slavery. He challenged African Americans to rebel and overthrow slavery. He wrote, “America is more our country than it is the whites’—we have enriched it with our blood and tears.”

In 1830 free African American leaders held their first convention in Philadelphia. Delegates met “to devise ways and means for the bettering of our condition.” They discussed starting an African American college and encouraging free African Americans to emigrate to Canada.

## Frederick Douglass

**Frederick Douglass**, the most widely known African American abolitionist, was born enslaved in Maryland. After teaching himself to read and write, he escaped from slavery in Maryland in 1838. He settled first in Massachusetts and then moved to New York.

As a runaway, Douglass could have been captured and returned to slavery. Still, he joined the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. He traveled widely to address abolitionist meetings. Douglass was a powerful speaker who often moved listeners to tears with his message. At an Independence Day gathering, he told the audience:



◀ Selling enslaved people at auction



▲ Defenders of slavery described plantations as ideal settings where enslaved persons were well treated.



▲ Poster announcing the raffle of a horse and an enslaved female

***“In all social systems there must be a class to do the menial duties, to perform the drudgery of life. That is, a class requiring but a low order of intellect and but little skill. . . . Such a class you must have, or you would not have that other class which leads progress, civilization, and refinement. . . . Fortunately for the South, she found a race adapted to that purpose.”***

—Senator James Henry Hammond in a speech to Congress, 1858

### Critical Thinking

**Analyzing Primary Sources** What pro-slavery arguments are discussed in the quotations from Weld and Hammond?

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

“What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham . . . your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; . . . your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery.”

—from Frederick Douglass:  
*Selected Speeches and Writings*

Douglass was editor of the antislavery newspaper *North Star* and won admiration as a powerful and influential speaker and writer. He even traveled abroad. Douglass spoke to huge antislavery audiences in London and the West Indies.

Douglass returned to the United States because he believed abolitionists must fight slavery at its source. He insisted that African Americans receive not just their freedom but full equality with whites as well. In 1847 friends helped Douglass buy his freedom from the slaveholder from whom he had fled in Maryland.

### Sojourner Truth

“I was born a slave in Ulster County, New York,” Isabella Baumfree began when she told her story to audiences. Called “Belle,” she lived in the cellar of a slaveholder’s house. She escaped in 1826 and gained official freedom in 1827 when New York banned slavery. Quaker friends then helped her find her son who had been sold as a slave. She eventually settled in New York City with her two youngest children. In 1843 Belle chose a new name:

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

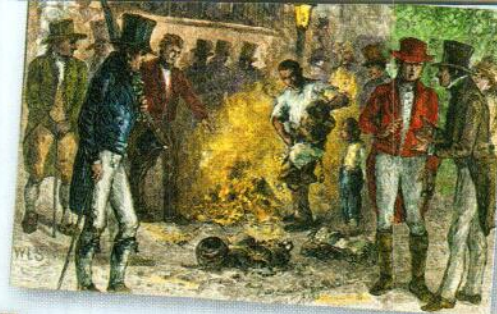
“The Lord [named] me Sojourner . . . Truth, because I was to declare the truth to the people.”

—from *Sojourner Truth: Slave, Prophet, Legend*

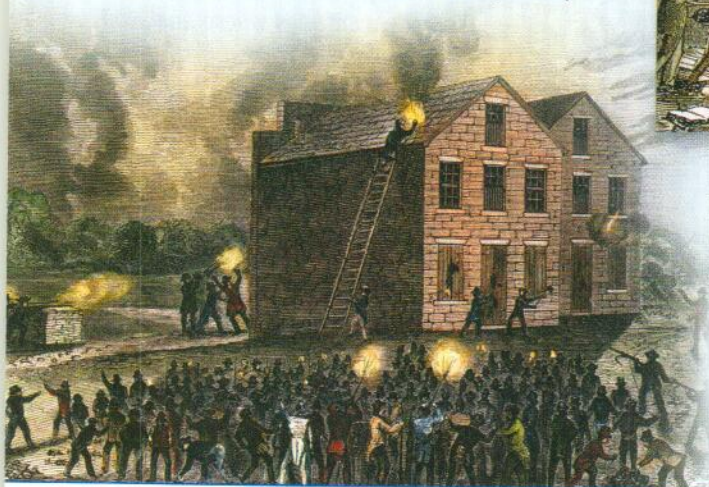
**Sojourner Truth** worked with a number of other abolitionists, including William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass, to bring about the end of slavery. She traveled throughout the North and spoke about her experiences as an enslaved person. Sojourner Truth was also an active supporter of the women’s rights movement.

**Anti-Abolitionists** Opposition to abolitionism was almost as strong in the North as it was in the South. Southerners viewed abolitionism as an attack on their way of life. Many Northerners feared the effect abolition might have upon them. In both areas, anti-abolitionists violently responded to literature that supported abolitionism.

In 1837 in Alton, Illinois, a mob killed abolitionist newspaper editor Elijah Lovejoy, destroyed his press (right), and burned his house (below).



▲ Southerners burn antislavery documents in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1830.



*"And men, like the abolitionist . . . [who goes] about meddling with other Peoples' affairs . . . [should] pay attention to his own affairs, & let his neighbor alone. . . . If these matters are going to be [agitated it will] . . . lead to the separation of the Union."*

—from a letter by E. W. Taylor (a New Yorker who moved to South Carolina)

**Critical Thinking**

**Analyzing** Why did anti-abolitionists destroy pro-abolition literature?

**The Underground Railroad**

Some abolitionists risked prison—even death—by helping African Americans escape from slavery. The network of escape routes—lines of travel—from the South to the North was called the **Underground Railroad**.

Passengers on this "railroad" traveled through the night, often on foot, and went north. The North Star was their guide. During the day passengers rested at "stations"—barns, basements, and attics—until the next night's journey. The railroad's "conductors" were whites and African Americans who helped guide the runaways to freedom in the Northern states or Canada. Harriet Tubman became the most famous conductor on the Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad helped only a tiny fraction of the enslaved population. Still, the Railroad gave hope to people who suffered in slavery. It also gave abolitionists a way to help some enslaved people.

**Reading Check** **Explaining** What were "stations" on the Underground Railroad?

**Clashes Over Abolitionism**

**Main Idea** Many Southerners and Northerners opposed abolition.

**History and You** Can you think of a time when you feared change, even if it was for the better? Read to learn why many people opposed abolition.

The antislavery movement triggered a strong reaction against abolitionism. Many Southerners opposed the idea of ending slavery. They held that abolitionism threatened the South's way of life, which depended on enslaved labor.

Not all Northerners were abolitionists. The abolitionists in the North made up only a small fraction of the population. Many Northerners saw the antislavery movement as a threat to the nation's social order. They believed that once freed, the African Americans could never blend into American society. Other Northerners feared that the abolitionists could begin a war between the North and South.

Many Northerners also had economic fears. They did not want to lose their jobs to the emancipated workers who might travel to the North and work for cheaper wages.

Opposition to abolitionism sometimes erupted into violence against the abolitionists themselves. Philadelphia's antislavery headquarters was burned, which set off a bloody race riot. A Boston mob attacked and threatened to hang abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. Authorities saved his life by putting him in jail.

**Elijah Lovejoy** in Illinois was not so lucky. Angry whites invaded his antislavery newspaper offices and wrecked his presses three times. Each time Lovejoy installed new presses and resumed publication. The fourth time the mob set fire to the building. When Lovejoy came out of the blazing building, he was shot and killed.

## The South Reacts

Southerners fought abolitionism with arguments in defense of slavery. They claimed

that slavery was essential to the Southern economy and had allowed Southern whites to reach a high level of culture.

Southerners also argued that they treated enslaved people well. They claimed that Northern workers were worse off than enslaved workers because they worked in factories for long hours at low wages. These jobs were repetitious and often dangerous. Also, Northern workers had to pay for their own goods and services from their small earnings, whereas the system of slavery provided food, clothing, and **medical** care to its workers.

Other defenses of slavery were based on racism. Many whites believed that African Americans were better off under white care than on their own.

The conflict between pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups continued to mount. At the same time, a new women's rights movement was growing.

 **Reading Check** **Explaining** How did many Southerners defend the institution of slavery?

## Section 2 Review

**History ONLINE**  
Study Central™ To review this section, go to [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com).

### Vocabulary

1. Write complete sentences that define the following terms:  
*abolitionist, route, Underground Railroad, medical.*

### Main Ideas

2. **Specifying** What effect did the American Colonization Society have on slavery? How did enslaved African Americans view that group and its efforts?
3. **Discussing** Discuss the role of African Americans in the abolitionist movement.
4. **Comparing and Contrasting** How did Northerners and Southerners view abolitionism differently?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Outlining** Use a format like the one below to make an outline of this section. Write each main heading on a line with a Roman numeral, and then list important facts below it. The number of key facts may vary from this sample.
  - I. First main heading
    - A. Key fact #1
    - B. Key fact #2
  - II. Second main heading
    - A. Key fact #1
    - B. Key fact #2
  - III. Third main heading
    - A. Key fact #1
    - B. Key fact #2

6. **Creative Writing** Write a conversation that might have taken place between a Southern plantation owner and a Massachusetts abolitionist about the abolition of slavery. Have each character explain his or her point of view.

7. **Answer the Essential Question**  
How did abolitionists influence the antislavery movement?

# The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a loosely organized system of secret routes for helping enslaved people escape to Canada or to areas of safety in free states. However, the popular notion of lantern-wielding “conductors” guiding families of enslaved people through forests in the South is largely inaccurate. In fact, few Southerners were willing to assist an enslaved person escape. For the most part, fugitives were on their own until they reached border states. There they could find assistance from loosely-connected groups of abolitionists. This network was the true Underground Railroad.

## How Did Geography Affect the Underground Railroad?

Few abolitionists escorted runaways from the Deep South into free territory. Most runaways—typically single young men—probably lived in the upper South, close to free territories. Anti-slavery Northerners—mostly free African Americans—in border towns such as Ripley, Ohio, and Wilmington, Delaware, hid escapees from police and professional slave catchers and helped them move farther north.



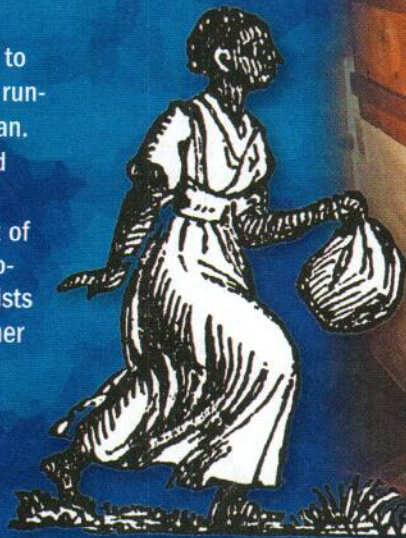
**The Underground Railroad, Charles T. Webber, 1893**

The painting portrays a group of enslaved African Americans arriving at a safe house “station” on the Underground Railroad. Three abolitionists, Levi Coffin and his wife, Catharine, as well as Hannah Haddock, are also pictured. The scene most likely takes place at the Coffin farm in Cincinnati, Ohio.

This “hidey hole” built in a safe house in Fountain City, Indiana, was used to conceal fugitives from the police and professional slave catchers. The beds could be moved in front of the hole to conceal it.



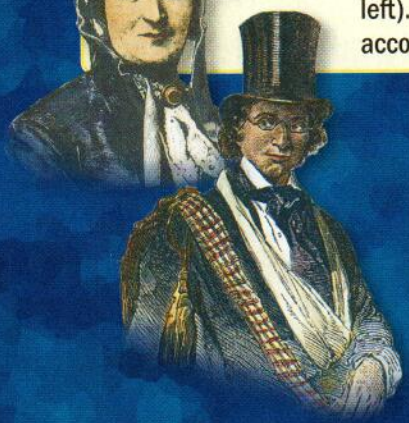
◀ This poster refers to Anthony Burns, a runaway enslaved man. Burns’s arrest and trial under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 sparked protests by abolitionists in Boston and other Northern cities.



**Escape Routes** Escapees used two main corridors to flee into the North. Enslaved people from inland Southern states generally made their way toward Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. Runaways from Southern states along the Atlantic coast tended to follow the coastline into Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Many of these runaways eventually headed into Canada. ▼



**Ellen Craft (1826–1891)** was the daughter of an African American enslaved woman and her slaveholder. Passing as white, Ellen escaped from slavery in Georgia in 1848 by dressing as a Southern male slaveholder (pictured below left). Her darker-skinned husband, **William Craft** (pictured right), accompanied her by pretending to be her valet.



**Analyzing Geography**

- 1. Place** From which state do you think more African Americans successfully escaped slavery to freedom: Kentucky or Alabama? Explain your answer.
- 2. Regions** On the map, locate the cities of Toledo, Cleveland, and Buffalo. Why do you think these cities became important points along the Underground Railroad?