

ACTIVITY GUIDE

AMERICA’S JOURNEY THROUGH SLAVERY: OPPOSING SLAVERY THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT

Program Overview and Objective:

This guide was developed as a supplement to be used in conjunction with the program “Opposing Slavery: The Abolitionists Movement in America”. It focuses on the people and events that led to the end of slavery in America.

The program begins by exploring the development of slavery in America and the conditions under which enslaved people lived and worked. Through reenactments, the video focuses on key members of the abolitionist movement including William Lloyd Garrison, the Grimke sisters, Frederick Douglas, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Harriet Tubman.

WHOLE CLASS ACTIVITIES

Whole Class Activity #1

In America, during the era of slavery, there were two sides of the slavery issue. Many people opposed slavery while others supported the institution. Divide the class and have each side debate the issue; one side is for slavery, the other against slavery.

Whole Class Activity #2

Have students view abolitionist pictures and posters at <http://www.iath.virginia.edu/utc/abolitn/abgall.html>. Ask you students to describe what they see in the pictures and discuss how they think these images helped to change views on slavery.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Small Group Activity #1

Have each group pretend they are members of an abolitionist organization. Ask each group to develop a newsletter that presents ideas and information about the abolitionist movement.

Small Group Activity #2

Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and made slavery illegal in America. Have each group pretend to be a local television station. Have them write a television news report about this important news story. As an example, students may include interviews with former slaves, Abraham Lincoln and soldiers from the Union and Confederate armies to give their views on the famous proclamation.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

Individual Activity #1

Ask each student to create a poster that shows support for the abolitionist movement.

Individual Activity #2

Have each student do research on a famous abolitionist (Harriet Beecher Stowe, Grimke Sisters, Booker T. Washington) and write a report about their life and their impact on the end of slavery in America.

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