



On behalf of Splash! Publications, we would like to welcome you to *Famous Abolitionists*, one of six lessons in our *Slavery in America Unit*. This lesson was designed by teachers with you and your students in mind.

THE FORMAT

Our goal is a lesson that you can use immediately. No comprehension questions to write, activities to create, or vocabulary words to define. Simply make copies of the lesson for your students and start teaching.

THE VOCABULARY

Our lessons feature words in bold type. We have included a Glossary to help students pronounce and define the words. Unlike a dictionary, the definitions in the Glossary are concise and written in context. Remember, we're teachers! Students will be exposed to these vocabulary words in the comprehension activities. They will also be tested on the vocabulary words at the end of the lesson.

Students will be responsible for filling out and studying their vocabulary cards. You may want to have students bring in a small box for storing their vocabulary cards. We don't have to tell you that incorporating these words into your Reading and Spelling programs will save time and make the words more meaningful for students.

THE LESSON PLAN

Before reading *Famous Abolitionists*, students will:

- complete Vocabulary Cards for ***abolitionists, antislavery, autobiography, branded, Civil War, conductors, convention, convinced, defend, delegates, economy, fugitive, harsh, hostilities, immigrants, liberty, prevent, profits, Quakers, Revolutionary War, societies, Underground Railroad, Union Army, unite.***

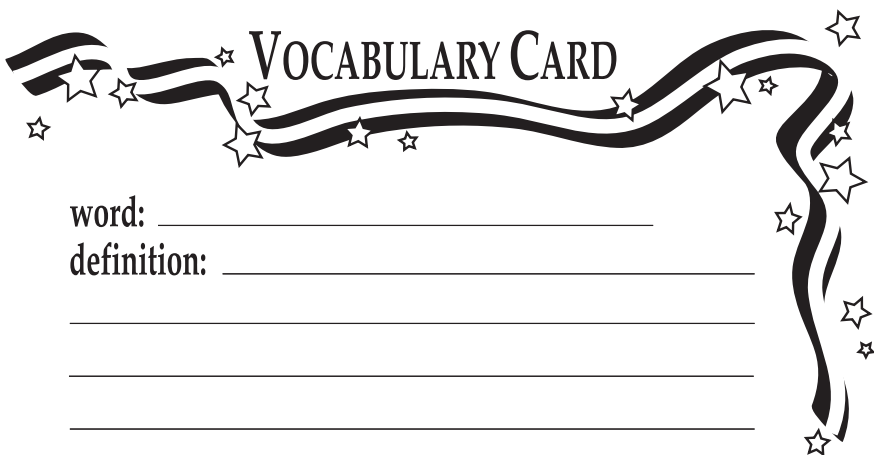
After reading *Famous Abolitionists*, students will:

- answer *Famous Abolitionists* Reading Comprehension Questions.
- complete *Famous Abolitionists* Discussion Questions.
- read about Sojourner Truth and answer discussion questions.
- use various sources to research a famous abolitionist and create the game Find the Fib.
NOTE: You will need to make four copies of the Find the Fib cards on pages 13, 14, 15, or 16 for each student.
- take a Vocabulary Quiz for Famous Abolitionists.

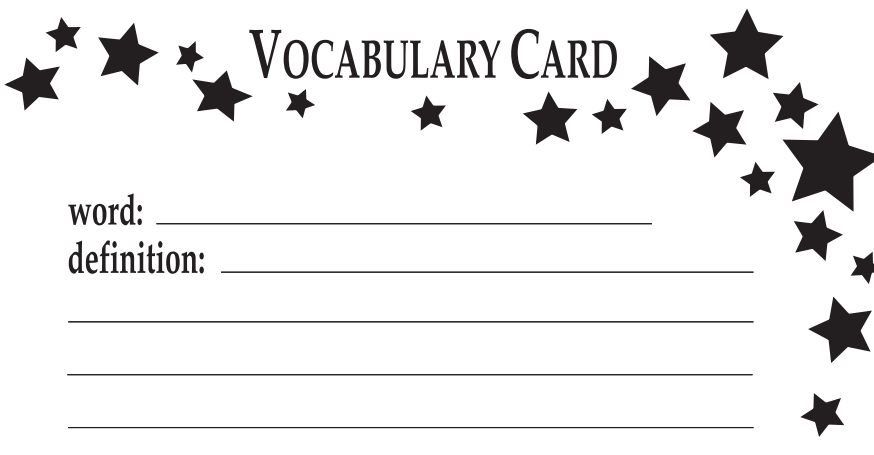
NOTE: The answers to all activities and quizzes are at the end of the lesson.

OUR OTHER SLAVERY IN AMERICA LESSONS

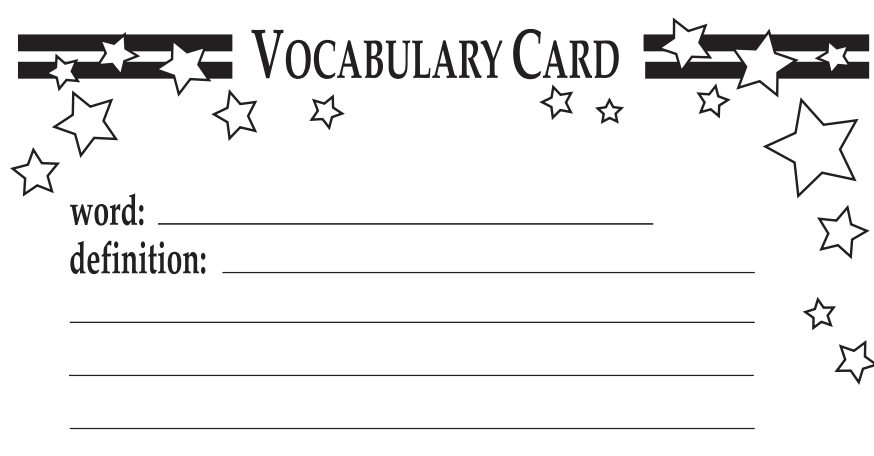
Slavery's Beginnings, A Slave's Life, Slavery in the United States, Slave Rebellions, The Underground Railroad.

 VOCABULARY CARD

word: _____
definition: _____

 VOCABULARY CARD

word: _____
definition: _____

 VOCABULARY CARD

word: _____
definition: _____

FAMOUS ABOLITIONISTS

History proves there was no shortage of brave men and women willing to risk their lives to bring attention to the cruelty of slavery or to help slaves escape to freedom. You may have already read about Gabriel Prosser, Denmark Vesey, and Nat Turner.

Some of the most famous **abolitionists** were white Northerners who believed it was wrong to own another human being. Others, like Prosser, Vesey, and Turner, were black men and women who had been born into a life of slavery themselves.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

In 1811, Harriet Beecher was born in Connecticut. Her father, Lyman Beecher, was a preacher and a leader in the **antislavery** movement. Through her father's teachings in church and at home, Harriet learned to hate slavery.

In 1836, Harriet married Calvin Stowe. He was a professor who was also against slavery. They often gave shelter to runaway slaves who escaped North to freedom along the **Underground Railroad**.

Though Calvin and Harriet were white, they knew the pain that a black woman felt when she lost her child. Four of their own seven children died of illness or disease.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

Harriet began writing at the age of 13. At the age of 41, she wrote her most famous book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This book followed the lives of slaves as they were sold into slavery, beaten to death, or separated from their families at slave auctions.

Uncle Tom's Cabin was the most powerful attack on slavery written in the 1850s. It sold 3,000 copies on the first day it was published. More copies of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* were sold than any other book except the Bible.

Uncle Tom's Cabin was read by so many people that it scared slave owners. They feared that people would feel sorry for the slaves and refuse to return runaway slaves to their masters. That is exactly what happened.

After Harriet Beecher Stowe's book was published, more people helped slaves escape North to freedom. When President Abraham Lincoln met Harriet Beecher Stowe he said, "So you're the little lady who started the **Civil War!**"



HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

HARRIET TUBMAN

Harriet Tubman was one of the most famous **conductors** on the Underground Railroad. Harriet Ross had been born in Maryland in 1820. Since her parents were slaves, Harriet was also a slave.

Even as a very young child, Harriet spoke out against slavery. At the age of 13, Harriet tried to save another slave from punishment. For her efforts, Harriet's master beat her over the head with a piece of metal. She suffered from headaches and blackouts for the rest of her life.

In 1844, Harriet married freed slave John Tubman. Five years later, Harriet herself escaped from a life of slavery on the Underground Railroad.

Harriet and John settled in Philadelphia. During the 1850s, Harriet made 19 trips back to Maryland and helped more than 300 slaves escape to freedom.

In 1857, Harriet Tubman even led her parents to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

Harriet Tubman never lost a slave on any of her rescue trips. She carried a gun and promised to kill any of the slaves who tried to turn back.

Slave owners offered a \$40,000 reward for Harriet's capture, but she was never caught. When asked about her reason for escaping, Harriet said, "There was one of two things I had a right to, **liberty** or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other."



HARRIET TUBMAN

FAST FACTS

- ★ Slaves didn't have last names. Harriet's mother's first name was Harriet and her father's first name was Ross. This is how Harriet received the name Harriet Ross.
- ★ During the Civil War, Harriet served as a nurse and even a spy for the **Union Army**. After the war, she helped raise money for black schools. She established the Harriet Tubman Home for needy blacks.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Frederick Douglass was another famous abolitionist who helped black slaves find freedom. He was born in Maryland in 1818, two years before Harriet Tubman. Like Harriet, Frederick was born into a life of slavery. He was separated from his mother right after he was born. At the age of six, Frederick was also taken from his grandmother.

When Frederick was about 12 years old, the wife of his owner broke the rules and taught him to read and write. Frederick later taught other slaves how to read the Bible during Sunday church classes.

At the age of 16, Frederick Douglass was sent to work for Edward Covey, a poor farmer who was known as a “slave breaker.” Slave breakers like Covey were especially cruel to slaves. Douglass was whipped regularly. During one **harsh** beating, Frederick fought back. Edward Covey never whipped Frederick Douglass again.

DOUGLASS’S ESCAPE TO FREEDOM

In 1838, Frederick Douglass escaped to freedom by pretending to be a sailor. He made it all the way to New York. He finally settled in Massachusetts, where he joined a black church and began attending abolitionist meetings. Frederick was encouraged to tell his story to others.

In 1845, Frederick Douglass’s **autobiography**, *Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, was published. He wrote other books and published newspapers where he wrote that education was the key for African Americans to make their lives better.

By the time the Civil War broke out, Frederick Douglass was one of the most famous black men in the country. Before his death in 1895, Douglass had not only become an abolitionist, he had also helped black men earn the freedom to vote. Throughout his life, Frederick Douglass fought for equal treatment of all people including blacks, women, Native Americans, and **immigrants**. He was known for saying, “I would **unite** with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong.”



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

FUGITIVE SLAVE LAWS

Slave owners passed strict laws to keep slaves like Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass from running away on the Underground Railroad. In 1850, the **Fugitive Slave Law** stated that runaway slaves in the North could still be captured and returned to their masters. Also, anyone who helped a slave escape could be fined \$1,000 or sent to prison for six months.

Many people who worked on the Underground Railroad paid a high price for helping slaves escape. Calvin Fairbanks spent 16 years in a Kentucky prison for helping slaves escape to Canada.

Charles Turner Torrey was thrown in a Maryland prison for helping more than 400 slaves escape to freedom.

Jonathan Walker, a sea captain, was caught taking slaves from Florida to safety in the Bahamas. The slaves were returned to their masters and Walker had “SS” **branded** on his hand. “SS” stood for “Slave Stealer.” Walker also spent eight months in jail.

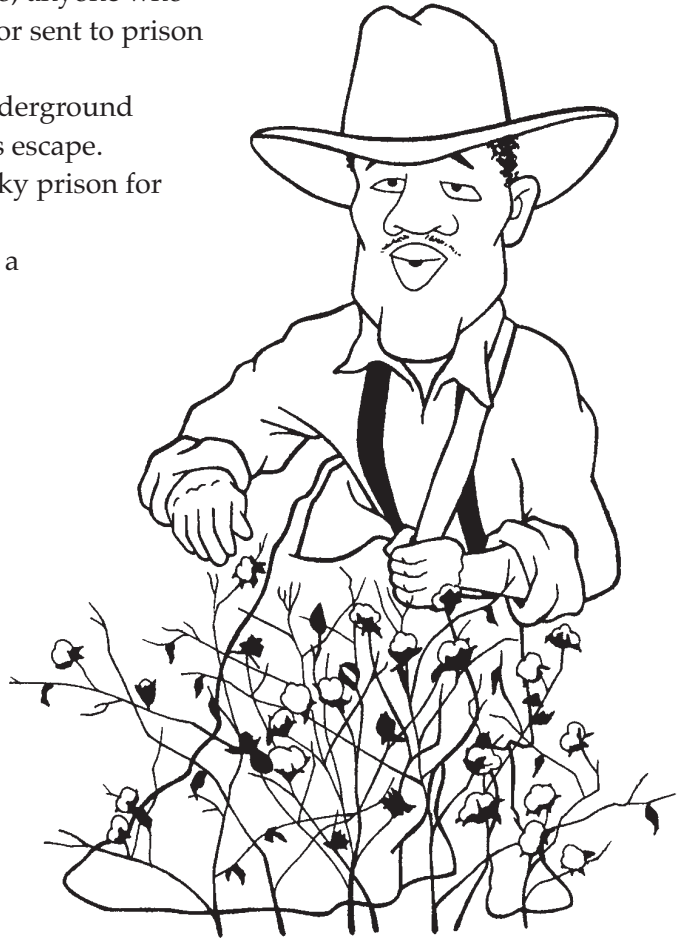
ANTISLAVERY SOCIETIES

For many Americans, just helping runaway slaves was not enough. Many Northerners wanted to **prevent** the spread of slavery into new states and end slavery completely.

By the 1840s, there were more than 2,000 antislavery **societies** in the North. Most of the 250,000 members were **Quakers**.

Quakers had been trying to put an end to slavery since the **Revolutionary War**. Quakers believed that all men were created equal. They gave speeches and wrote newspaper articles calling for an end to slavery.

Southern states were not willing to give up their cheap slave labor. Southerners were willing to do whatever was needed to protect their **economy** and their **profits**. By the end of the 1850s, **hostilities** between the North and South made it clear that the issue of slavery might tear the United States apart.



SLAVE PICKING COTTON

★ ★ ★ FAMOUS ABOLITIONISTS ★ ★ ★

Directions: Read each question carefully. Darken the circle for the correct answer.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 After reading about Harriet Beecher Stowe, you learn that –</p> <p>A she was born a slave</p> <p>B she was in favor of slavery</p> <p>C she was white</p> <p>D she never had any children of her own</p> <p>2 Why were slave owners so afraid of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s book, <i>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</i>?</p> <p>F They were afraid it would make people feel sorry for slaves.</p> <p>G They were concerned that nobody would read the book that Harriet Beecher Stowe had worked so long to write.</p> <p>H They were afraid that more people would want to own slaves and there wouldn’t be enough slaves for everyone.</p> <p>J They were afraid that their slaves might read the book.</p> <p>3 Harriet Tubman was born in 1820 and led her parents to freedom in 1857. How old was Harriet when she led her parents to freedom?</p> <p>A 37</p> <p>B 27</p> <p>C 63</p> <p>D 33</p> <p>4 Which of these statements about Harriet Tubman is <u>true</u>?</p> <p>F Her husband was never a slave.</p> <p>G She only lost four slaves on her rescue trips.</p> <p>H She was born in Maryland.</p> <p>J She was caught and sent to prison.</p> | <p>5 Which of the following is an example of a <u>secondary source</u>?</p> <p>A The gun that Harriet Tubman carried.</p> <p>B Harriet and John’s certificate of marriage.</p> <p>C Harriet Tubman’s diary written while helping slaves escape on the Underground Railroad.</p> <p>D Harriet Tubman’s biography.</p> <p>6 What did Frederick Douglass do to keep from being beaten by his master?</p> <p>F He begged his master not to hurt him again.</p> <p>G He fought back.</p> <p>H He ran away whenever his master came near him.</p> <p>J He killed his master.</p> <p>7 The purpose of Fugitive Slave Laws was to –</p> <p>A punish white plantation owners for buying and selling slaves</p> <p>B help runaway slaves arrive safely in the North</p> <p>C prevent slaves from escaping on the Underground Railroad and punish those who helped them</p> <p>D help abolitionists get out of prison</p> |
|--|---|

READING

Answers

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 5 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (F) (G) (H) (J) | 6 (F) (G) (H) (J) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 7 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (F) (G) (H) (J) | |



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

FAMOUS ABOLITIONISTS

Abolitionists were brave Americans who stood up against slavery. Read the questions below about famous abolitionists. Write your answers on the lines provided. Attach a separate piece of paper if you need more room. Be ready to discuss some of your answers.

- **Many people were willing to risk their lives to end slavery.**

If you could have been born as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Tubman, or Frederick Douglass, which would you choose? Explain why.

- **Fugitive Slave Laws were passed to punish slaves and the people who helped them escape.**

If you knew that you were going to be thrown in jail, would you have helped someone escape from a life of slavery? Explain why or why not.

Instead of running away, what are some things you can do to help someone who is in trouble or being treated unfairly? Do you think these things would have worked during the time of slavery?

FAMOUS PEOPLE

★ SOJOURNER TRUTH ★

In 1797, a baby girl was born to slave parents in New York. They named her Isabella. Because Isabella's parents were slaves, she was also a slave. Isabella spent the first few years of her life sleeping on the wet, muddy floor of her master's basement. She watched helplessly as her brothers and sisters were sold one by one to other slave owners. Isabella herself was sold three times by the age of 13. One of her masters tied her hands in front of her and beat her bare back with hot iron rods.

RUNNING AWAY

In 1826, at the age of 29, Isabella finally ran away from her life of slavery. She left behind her husband and three children. She took her youngest daughter, Sophie, and found freedom with a family in New York that did not believe in slavery. Isabella soon learned that her son Peter had been sold to a slave owner in another state. In New York, it was against the law to sell slaves outside of the state.

FIGHTING BACK

A group of Quakers offered to help Isabella get her son back. They encouraged her to go to the courthouse and file a legal complaint against the man who sold her son. The Quakers helped Isabella raise enough money to pay a lawyer to **defend** her rights. With their help, Isabella got her son back. She also became the first black woman in the United States to ever win a court case.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

With her son and daughter safely by her side, Isabella began attending church. During a time of prayer, Isabella received directions from God to go East. She changed her name to Sojourner, which means "one who travels," and started walking toward Massachusetts.

In Massachusetts, Sojourner met black and white abolitionists and other runaway slaves. She also spoke with leaders of the women's rights movement. Like black women, white women were not allowed to vote, own property, or even hold the same jobs as white men. The courage of these men and women **convinced** Sojourner that she could also make a difference. Olive Gilbert, a leader for women's rights, encouraged Sojourner to write about her life. Sojourner was unable to read or write, so she told her story to Olive Gilbert.



SOJOURNER TRUTH

SOJOURNER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

In 1850, Sojourner's life story, *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth* was published. Unfortunately, no book stores would sell her book. Store owners were afraid that the book would anger too many people who were in favor of slavery. For the next ten years, Sojourner Truth traveled hundreds of miles selling her books and talking to people about women's rights and the cruelty of slavery.

THE CIVIL WAR

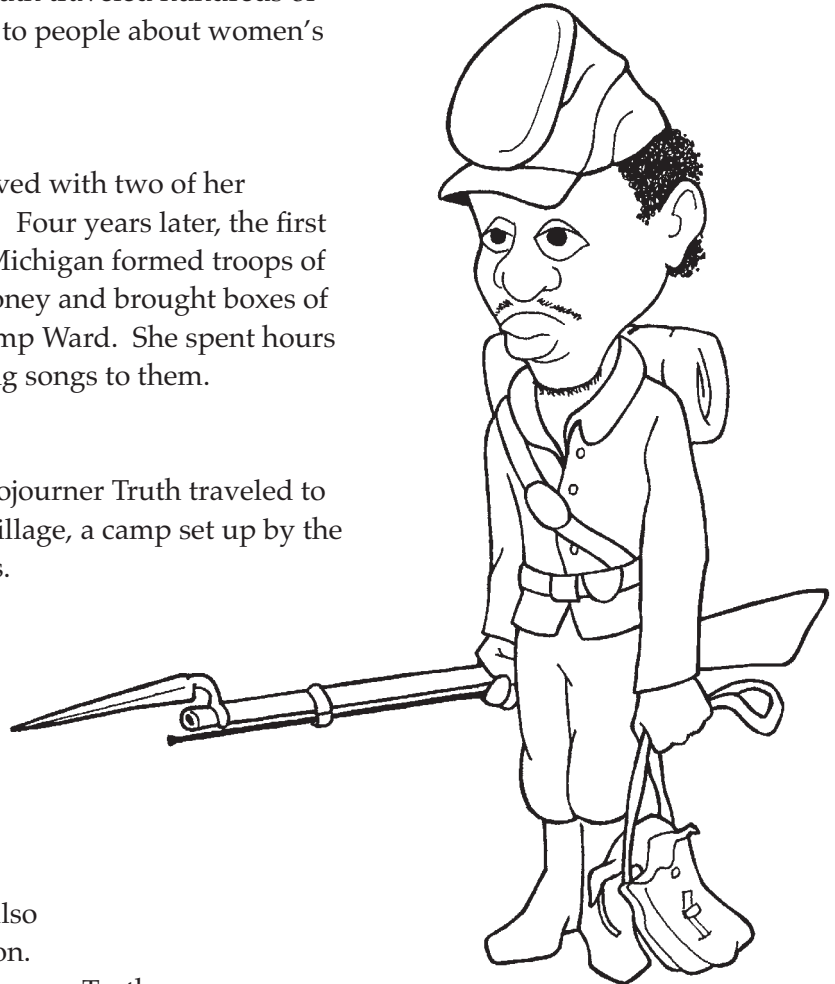
In 1857, Sojourner Truth moved with two of her daughters to Battlecreek, Michigan. Four years later, the first shots of the Civil War were fired. Michigan formed troops of black soldiers. Sojourner raised money and brought boxes of supplies to the black soldiers at Camp Ward. She spent hours talking with the soldiers and singing songs to them.

FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE

After the Civil War ended, Sojourner Truth traveled to Virginia. She visited Freedman's Village, a camp set up by the United States Army for freed slaves.

Black women had only been trained for work in the fields. Some of them didn't know how to sew, clean house, do laundry, or even care for their children. Sojourner and her grandson spent a year in the village teaching the black women basic skills. She also encouraged them to get an education.

For the next three years, Sojourner Truth concentrated her efforts on finding jobs and homes for freed slaves. She tried unsuccessfully to convince the United States government to give land in the West to freed slaves. Sojourner traveled through Michigan and spoke out about violence against blacks. At the age of 81, she was one of the **delegates** to the Women's Rights **Convention** in Michigan. On November 26, 1883, Sojourner Truth died. More than 1,000 people attended her funeral. White men carried her coffin.



BLACK CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

FAMOUS PEOPLE



Directions: Use the selection about Sojourner Truth to answer these questions. Circle the answers to questions 1 and 2. Write your answers on the lines provided for questions 3-6.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 After reading about the Quakers in this selection, you get the idea that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A they were against slaveryB they didn't care about anyone but themselvesC they were richD they thought people had the right to own slaves | <p>2 What does the name Sojourner mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A follower of GodB one who travelsC child of truthD leader of women |
|--|---|

3 Describe how the first paragraph of the selection makes you feel.

4 Give three examples of positive contributions that Sojourner Truth made in her life.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

5 Why do you think Sojourner Truth spent all of that time and energy helping other people?

6 If Sojourner Truth was alive today, do you think she would be proud of the way black and white Americans treat each other? Give reasons for your answer.

FIND THE FIB

GAME

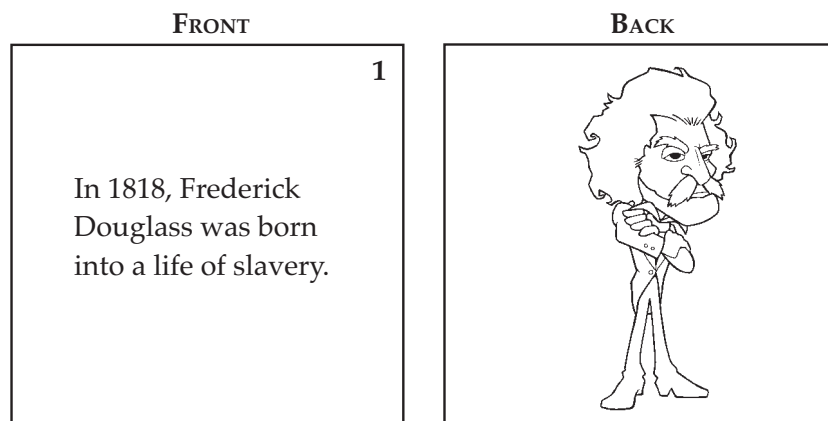
Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth were four of history's most famous abolitionists.

In this activity, you will collect facts about one of these famous abolitionists to make a game called "Find the Fib."

Directions:

1. Choose either Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas, or Sojourner Truth to make the game "Find the Fib."
2. Use your scissors to cut apart the "Find the Fib" cards given to you by your teacher. You will need 20 cards.
3. Neatly color the pictures of your famous abolitionist on each card.
4. Use the general information about the famous abolitionist you've chosen, encyclopedias, books in the library, the Internet, and other sources to find 15 true facts about the abolitionist you have chosen.
5. Write each fact on a separate card. Try to fit the whole fact on one side of the card.
6. Make up 5 false facts, or "fibs" about your chosen abolitionist. Make the fib as believable as possible so that it can't be easily seen as a fib.
7. Write each fib on a separate card, just like you did with the true facts. Again, try to fit the whole fib on one side of the card.
8. Mix and shuffle all of the cards together, so the true facts and fibs are mixed together.
9. Number the cards 1-20.
10. Make an answer key for yourself so you will know which cards are the true facts and which cards are the fibs.
11. Give your cards to 2 or 3 other people in the class to see if they can find the true facts and the fibs.

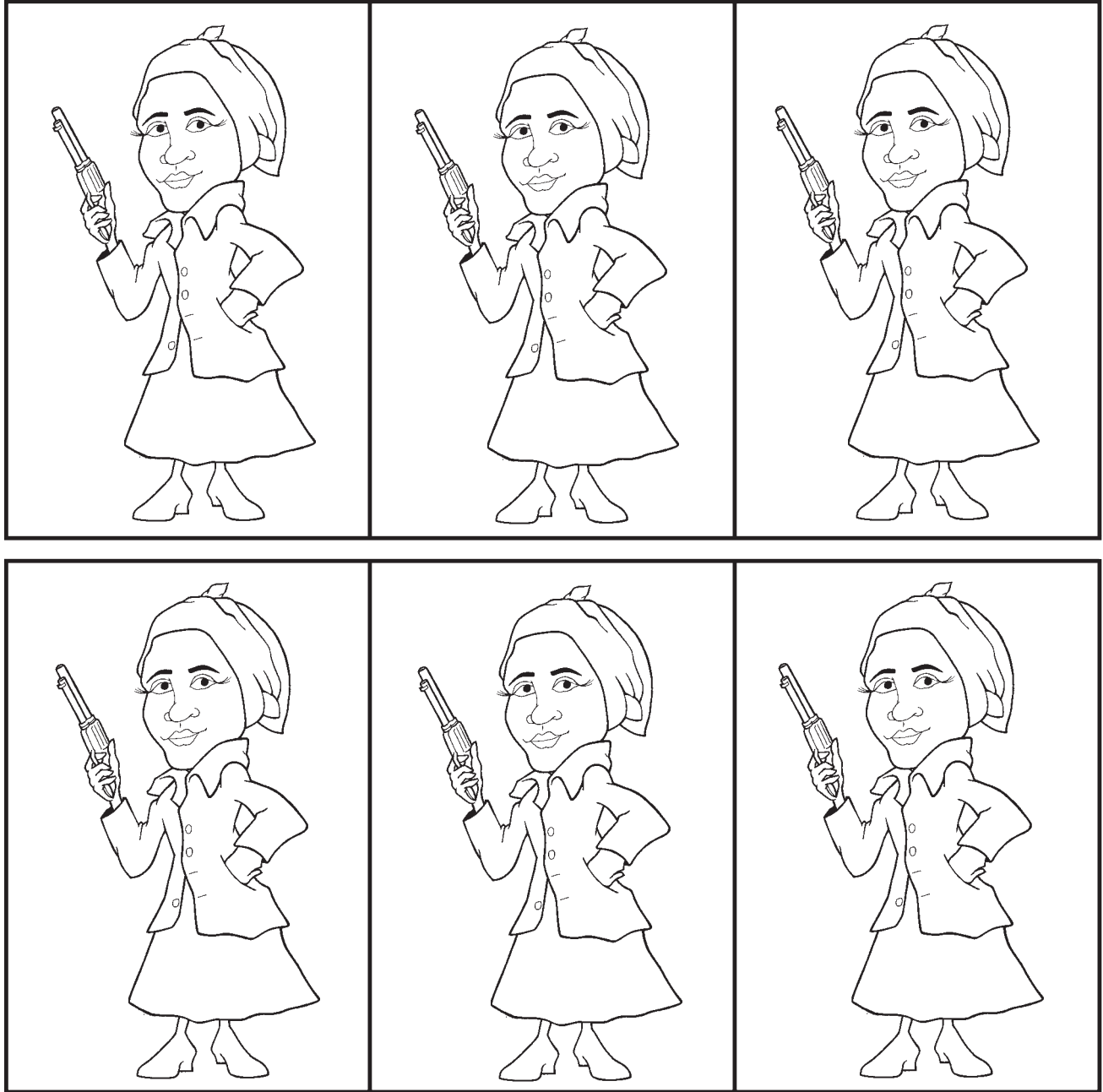
SAMPLE CARD



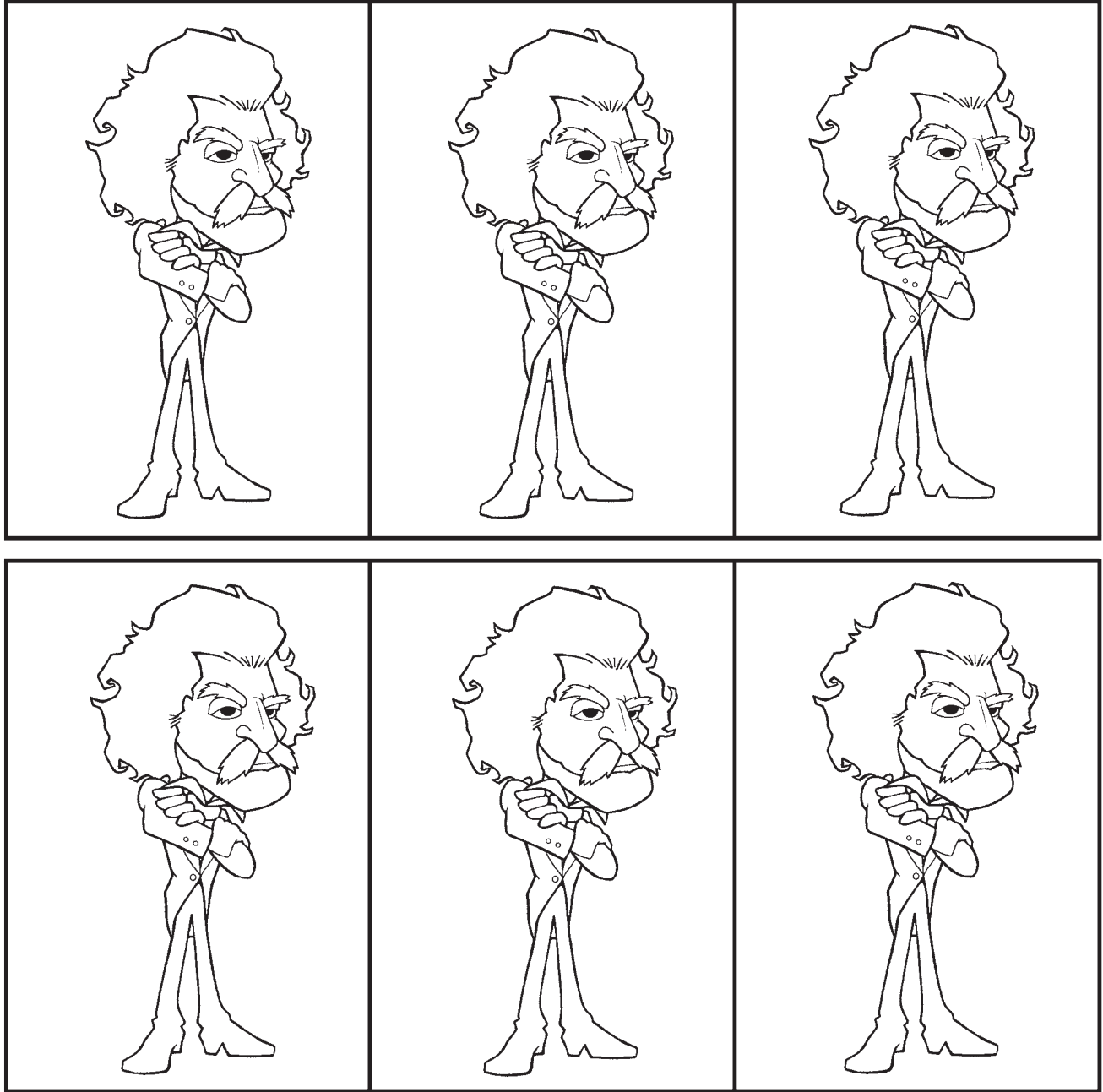
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE FIND THE FIB CARDS



HARRIET TUBMAN FIND THE FIB CARDS



FREDERICK DOUGLASS FIND THE FIB CARDS



SOJOURNER TRUTH FIND THE FIB CARDS
















☆ ★ ☆ ★ ★ **VOCABULARY QUIZ** ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ★
FAMOUS ABOLITIONISTS

Directions: Match the vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right. Put the letter for the definition on the blank next to the vocabulary word it matches. Use each word and definition only once.

1. _____ Revolutionary War
2. _____ liberty
3. _____ unite
4. _____ economy
5. _____ societies
6. _____ abolitionists
7. _____ autobiography
8. _____ delegates
9. _____ antislavery
10. _____ immigrants
11. _____ fugitive
12. _____ Quakers
13. _____ convinced



- A. freedom to do as one pleases.
- B. members of a religious group that believed all men were created equal, refused to serve in the army or navy, and would not pay taxes used to support war.
- C. people in charge of a train, bus, or streetcar.
- D. the northern troops who fought against slavery during the Civil War.
- E. a system of homes throughout the North that hid slaves on their way to freedom.
- F. the story of your life written by you.
- G. amounts of money made after all expenses have been paid.
- H. people sent with power to represent others.
- I. against slavery.
- J. the way a city, state, or country makes money.
- K. a meeting where important topics are discussed.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 14. _____ hostilities |  | L. talked someone into doing something your way. |
| 15. _____ defend |  | M. people who come to a new country to live permanently. |
| 16. _____ prevent |  | N. the war fought from 1861 to 1865 between the North and the South over the issue of slavery. |
| 17. _____ harsh |  | O. battle for independence between the English colonists in America and Great Britain. |
| 18. _____ conductors |  | P. to keep from happening. |
| 19. _____ convention |  | Q. a law breaker who is trying to escape or run away. |
| 20. _____ Civil War |  | R. groups of people who come together for a common cause. |
| 21. _____ Union Army |  | S. built up anger. |
| 22. _____ branded |  | T. people who fought to end slavery. |
| 23. _____ Underground Railroad |  | U. join together. |
| 24. _____ profits |  | V. very uncomfortable. |
| |  | W. protect. |
| |  | X. burned a mark into the skin of a person or animal. |



GLOSSARY

a•bo•li•tion•ists people who fought to end slavery.

an•ti•slav•er•y against slavery.

au•to•bi•og•ra•phy the story of your life written by you.

brand•ed burned a mark into the skin of a person or animal.

Civ•il War the war fought from 1861 to 1865 between the North and South over the issue of slavery.

con•duc•tors people in charge of a train, bus, or streetcar.

con•ven•tion a meeting where important topics are discussed.

con•vinced talked someone into doing something your way.

de•fend protect.

del•e•gates people sent with power to represent others.

e•con•o•my the way a city, state, or country makes money.

fu•gi•tive a law breaker who is trying to escape or run away.

harsh very uncomfortable.

hos•til•i•ties built up anger.

im•mi•grants people who come to a new country to live permanently.

li•ber•ty freedom to do as one pleases.

pre•vent to keep from happening.

pro•fits amounts of money made after all expenses have been paid.

Qua•kers members of a religious group that believed all men were created equal, refused to serve in the army or navy, and would not pay taxes used to support war.

Rev•o•lu•tion•ar•y War battle for independence between the English colonists in America and Great Britain.

so•ci•e•ties groups of people who come together for a common cause.

Un•der•ground Rail•road a system of homes throughout the North that hid slaves on their way to freedom.

Un•ion Ar•my the Northern troops who fought against slavery during the Civil War.

u•nite join together.

ANSWERS

ANSWERS TO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. C
2. F
3. A
4. H
5. D
6. G
7. C

FAMOUS PEOPLE: SOJOURNER TRUTH

1. A
2. B
3. Answers will vary.
4. First black woman in the United States to win a court case, wrote a book about her life, supplied black soldiers with food and comfort, taught freed slaves how to care for their homes and children, traveled through Michigan speaking out against violence towards blacks.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

ANSWERS TO VOCABULARY QUIZ

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. O | 13. L |
| 2. A | 14. S |
| 3. U | 15. W |
| 4. J | 16. P |
| 5. R | 17. V |
| 6. T | 18. C |
| 7. F | 19. K |
| 8. H | 20. N |
| 9. I | 21. D |
| 10. M | 22. X |
| 11. Q | 23. E |
| 12. B | 24. G |

FIND THE FIB GRADING CHART

CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
Fifteen True Facts	60 (4 pts. each)	
Five False Facts	20 (4 pts. each)	
Spelling/Grammar	10	
Neatness	5	
Answer Sheet	5	
TOTAL	100	