

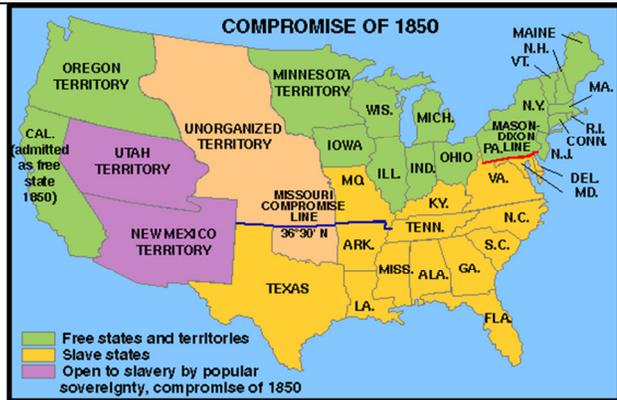
**GOING UNDERGROUND: COMPROMISES, ABOLITION, AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
FLIP CARDS**

Big Idea: Each new move westward renewed arguments between slavery's supporters and critics until the issue had to be settled or tear the nation apart. As the U.S. grew, earlier decisions about slavery and states' rights caused more and more Americans to begin thinking about differences that divided the country rather than the common vision that had first united us.



The Missouri Compromise of 1820 – The earlier Northwest Ordinance of 1787 had made the Ohio River the boundary between slave and free states. The Missouri Territory wanted to join the Union as a slave state. That would have upset the free state/slave state balance in Congress. Henry Clay from Kentucky worked to solve the problem. Finally, he reached a compromise: Missouri entered as a slave state and Maine entered as a free state, but future slave states had to be south of

Missouri's southern border and free and slave states would enter in pairs.



The Compromise of 1850—California was ready for statehood as a free state, but there was no territory asking to join the Union as a slave state. To please the slave states, the Compromise contained a new **Fugitive Slave Law**: anyone caught

helping slaves escape in Northern or Southern states would be punished. People who captured a runaway were to return that slave to the South. This extended the Underground Railroad beyond the Ohio River and Mason-Dixon line all the way to Canada.



The Annexation of Texas of 1845—one of the three slave states that entered the Union between 1820 and 1850. Texans chose to enter the Union as one state, although it could have become five states following the guidelines of the time. Leaders of the free Northern states were happy to have Texas come into the Union as one state to preserve the balance of free and slave states in the Congress. Texas had to give the United States all lands north of the Missouri Compromise line to enter as a slave state.



The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854—changed the Missouri Compromise by stating that people living in the areas of Kansas and Nebraska would be allowed to decide for themselves by voting whether or not to be free or slave states, even though they were north of Missouri's southern border. Fighting broke out between the proslavery and free sides. "Bleeding Kansas." The **Republican Party** was organized by people who want all

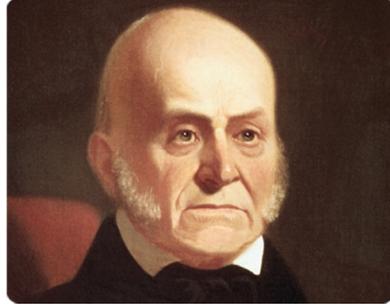
future western territories joining the Union to be free states.

People of Words

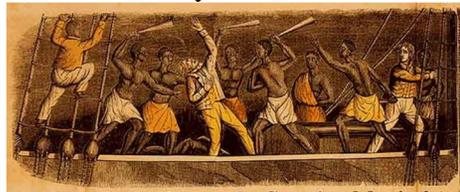


Massachusetts newspaper editor William Lloyd Garrison wrote an article in the

National Philanthropist in Boston criticizing a merchant involved in the slave trade, resulted in Garrison being imprisoned for libel. He was released from prison in June 1830. Garrison's period in prison made him even more determined to bring an end to slavery. Garrison returned to Boston where he established his own anti-slavery newspaper, the *Liberator* in 1831: **"I am in earnest--I will not equivocate--I will not excuse--I will not retreat a single inch--and I will be heard."** The newspaper only had a circulation of 3,000 but the strong opinions expressed in its columns gained Garrison a national reputation as the leader of those favoring immediate emancipation.



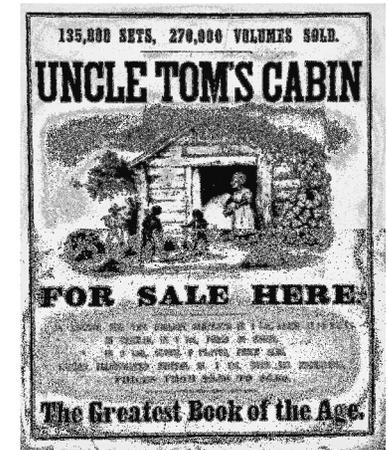
Former president John Quincy Adams delivers his argument before the Supreme Court on behalf of the Cuban slaves who captured the schooner *Amistad* in 1839, killing the captain, cook and two crewmen. He argues that **"if they are truly property, they cannot be tried for murder; if they are people, they have the right to strike for their own freedom and safety."** The Court orders the Africans to be freed immediately. Most of them travel to Sierra Leone along with a Christian mission in early 1842.



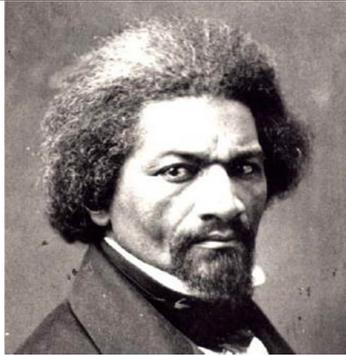
Sojourner Truth was born a slave in 1797 in New York. She was sold several times and suffered many hardships under slavery. She escaped with her infant son in 1827 and settled in New York City as a housemaid. When New York ended slavery in 1828, she met and worked with abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. Her memoirs were published in 1850 as *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave*. In 1851, she spoke at a women's convention in Akron, Ohio. In the "Ain't I a Woman?" speech, she spoke bravely and persuasively for the rights of women and slaves. The speech says that **as a woman and slave, she has proven herself over and over to be as strong as a man, and that women in general are as strong --or stronger--than men.** "I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman?"



Harriet Beecher was born June 14, 1811, the seventh child of a famous Protestant preacher. Harriet worked as a teacher with her older sister Catharine: her earliest publication was a geography book for children, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in 1852. Following publication of the book, she became a celebrity, speaking against slavery both in America and Europe. In 1862, when she visited President Lincoln, legend claims that he greeted her with the words, **"So this is the little lady who started this great war."**



People of Action



The Slave Who Stole Himself

Frederick Baily was born a slave in February 1818 in Maryland's eastern peninsula. One of the family members taught him how to read and write. When discovered, the master demanded the lessons end because a slave that could read and write would not be content to be a slave. Frederick later escaped to New York by pretending to be a sailor. He changed his last name to Douglass as part of his new life. Douglass was asked by the Anti-Slavery Society to give a lecture about slavery, and so became recognized as one of America's first great black speakers. His autobiography was published in 1845. Two years later he began an antislavery paper, the *North Star*.

Douglass advised President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and fought for constitutional amendments that guaranteed voting rights and other civil liberties.



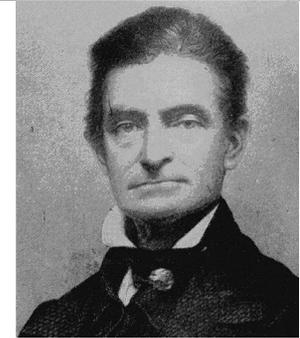
The Moses of Her People

Harriet Tubman was born a slave and managed to run away successfully, but she never forgot what it was like to be a slave. She led other people to freedom along the Underground Railroad using safe houses to rest in and code songs to tell the directions. She carried a gun with her because she had to make certain that no one ever turned back once they began their journey. Someone who turned back could give away the safe houses and conductors along the Underground Railroad. After the Civil War began, Tubman volunteered as a scout for the Union Army. In South Carolina on June 2, 1863 she led a group of Union soldiers on a raid of four plantations along the Combahee River near Beaufort and rescued 700 slaves from four plantations along the river. This happened six months after Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves of rebelling states.



Slave and preacher Nat Turner led a slave revolt in Virginia in 1831 that resulted in the deaths of 120 people, about 60 whites and 60 blacks. The violent uprising and the fighting and punishments inflicted on the slave population as a consequence made Northerners question the moral and legal questions of slavery. When captured, Turner said the Bible and visions from God had told him to lead a liberation movement.

Turner was executed, but slave conspiracy fears swept the nation. In the South laws called slave codes or "the Turner Codes" prevented blacks from gathering in groups, meeting for church, or learning to read, and punished whites who educated them. Even in the North, conspiracy fears led to the arrests of blacks and whites blamed for planning more rebellions.



Connecticut preacher John Brown led 21 men on a raid of the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia in October 1859. His plan to arm slaves with the weapons he and his men seized from the arsenal. He was surrounded by local militiamen and US Marines sent from Washington and led by Colonel Robert E. Lee. Within 36 hours of the attack, most of Brown's men had been killed or captured. Although he is most known for his attack on Harper's Ferry, John Brown had also been a "Jayhawker" in Kansas, threatening and killing slave owners to prevent more slave states from entering the Union.

John Brown was executed by Virginia on December 2, 1859, but not before he created a following that would continue to fight slavery long after he was dead. Shocked by Brown's actions, many Northerners began taking sides in the fight between abolitionists and slave owners.



Dred Scott Decision of 1858 – An enslaved African-American, Dred Scott was taken by his owner to Wisconsin in the free Western territories. Scott sued to gain his freedom based on the fact that he had lived in free states. The Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, rather than addressing the issue of freedom, decided Dred Scott could not sue because as a slave he was not a U.S. citizen and could not use the court. This suggested all free African-American could be citizens, either, placing their legal status in question.

