

Document A: Textbook

The textbook excerpt below comes from a chapter covering the development of Northern states in the decades before the Civil War.

African Americans in the North

Even more than immigrants, African Americans in the North faced discrimination. Discrimination is the denial of equal rights or equal treatment based on race, religion, culture, or nationality.

Slavery had largely ended in the North by the early 1800s. Free African Americans there were joined by new arrivals from the South. Freedom, however, did not grant equal treatment. African Americans were often denied the right to vote. They were not allowed to work in factories or in skilled trades. Even when they sought the least desirable jobs, they were at a disadvantage. Many employers preferred to hire white immigrants rather than African Americans.

Prejudice against African Americans led to the racial segregation of schools and public facilities. Turned away by white congregations, African Americans formed their own churches. For example, people who had been freed from slavery started the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia in 1816.

White newspapers often portrayed African Americans as inferior. African Americans responded by starting their own publications. The first newspaper owned and run by African Americans was *Freedom's Journal*, which was established in 1827 in New York. Its editor, John B. Russworm, had been one of the first African Americans to graduate from an American college.

Source: *James W. Davidson and Michael Stoff, America: History of Our Nation (Prentice Hall: New Jersey, 2006).*

Document C: *Enterprise*

Freedom's Journal often reprinted articles from newspapers around the country and the world. The notice below was originally printed in a Canadian newspaper.

Negro Enterprise.—The Montreal Gazer mentioned that great numbers of negroes have settled within a few years in western parts of Upper Canada, where they have introduced the culture of tobacco, and in six years raised the export from almost nothing to 500 or 600 **hogs heads**.

Source: Freedom's Journal, August 3, 1827.

Vocabulary

hogs head: a large wooden barrel used to transport tobacco

Document D: Kidnapping (Modified)

Many articles and notices in Freedom's Journal focused on the kidnapping of freed men, women, and children. The two notices below are examples of such articles.

Notice

The Protecting Society of the City and County of Philadelphia for the preventing of *Kidnapping* and *Man-stealing* think it's important to inform their Colored **brethren** that this Society was formed in the year 1827 hoping that all will use their best effort to carry the **benevolent** views of the Society into operation. Of the many evils to which we as **fallible** creatures are liable, none is more to be dreaded than the system of kidnapping free persons of Color which has been carried on even in this city by a set of unprincipled men, for some years past. People desirous of assistance in the recovery of their friends who have been kidnapped, must apply personally or by letter addressed to the Secretary of the Society.

JOHN ALLEN, Secretary

Philadelphia, April 24th, 1828

Source: Freedom's Journal, August 8, 1828.

WORTHY OF NOTICE

During the past week, we have heard of several persons being arrested as runaways from the South. It be well if all our **brethren** who have been so lucky as to escape from **bondage** would pay particular attention to this notice, and leave the city, or the most frequented parts of it, for a while, at least, as there are many from the South now in daily search of them.

Source: Freedom's Journal, October 31, 1828.

Vocabulary

brethren: people belonging to a particular group

benevolent: good and well-meaning

fallible: capable of making mistakes

bondage: slavery

Document E: Bishop Allen (Modified)

Richard Allen (1760-1831) was one of the most influential black leaders in the decades following the Revolutionary War. A minister, writer, and educator, Allen founded the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. The article below commemorated Allen's sixty-eighth birthday.

BISHOP ALLEN

On Thursday night, a number of respectable ladies and gentlemen of different **denominations** met the Rev. Richard Allen's to congratulate him, being his Birth Night. The evening entertainment was intermingled with singing and prayer. . . .

Bishop Allen was the first person that formed a Religious Society among the People of Color in the United States of America. We are happy to see his labors have been blessed and that he has been spared to see the sixty-ninth year of his age. He was also the first person that established a Benevolent Society among us for the grand purpose of helping one another in time of distress. It was formed I think in 1787. Since then, more than forty African Benevolent Societies have been established in this city. He was also the founder of the first African Church in the United States of America where we were enabled to worship Almighty God, under our own vine and fig tree, with none to harm nor yet make us afraid. He also travelled in various parts of the country, preaching the Word unto his depressed and ever injured brethren. . . .

To return to the celebration, it was conducted in a solemn and interesting manner. This Bishop addressed the company with a speech suitable for such an occasion. The evening's entertainment concluded with Singing and Prayer.

A SUBSCRIBER

Philadelphia, February 15, 1828

Source: Freedom's Journal, *February 22, 1828.*

Vocabulary

denomination: a group, or branch of a religion

Document F: *Freedom Journal's* Opening Editorial (Modified)

The excerpts below are from the lead editorial in the first issue of *Freedom's Journal*. In the article, the newspaper's editors explained the *Journal's* purpose.

We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the public been deceived by misinterpretations in things which concern us dearly. . . . Though there are many in society who exercise towards us **benevolent** feelings; still there are others who make it their business to discredit any persons of color. . . .

From the press and the pulpit we have suffered much by being incorrectly represented. . . . Our friends, whom we think are humane and religious, are actually prejudiced. Shouldn't they know more of our actual condition, and of our efforts and feelings so that in forming plans for our improvement, they may do it with more understanding? We intend by a simple representation of facts to lay our case before the public, with a view to arrest the progress of prejudice. . . .

The civil rights of people being of the greatest value, it shall ever be our duty to **vindicate** our brethren, when oppressed, and to lay the case before the public. We shall also urge our brethren (who are qualified by the laws of the different states) to use their right to vote.

Because education is of the highest importance to the welfare of society, we shall present just and adequate views of it, and urge our brethren the necessity of training their children. . . . While these important subjects shall occupy the columns of *Freedom's Journal*, we will not ignore our brethren still in the iron chains of bondage. They are our **kindred**; and although little can be effected by us, still let our sympathies and prayers be with them.

There are FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND free persons of color, one half of whom might **read**, and the whole be benefited by this *Journal*. No publication has been devoted exclusively to their improvement. This proves the real necessity for the appearance of the FREEDOM'S JOURNAL.

Source: Samuel Cornish and John Russworm, *Freedom's Journal*, March 16, 1827.

Vocabulary

benevolent: kind and compassionate

vindicate: free or liberate

kindred: family

***Freedom's Journal* Guiding Question: Round 1**

Document	Guiding Questions
<i>School Ads</i>	1) When were these advertisements published? 2) What are three things these advertisements have in common? 3) What do these ads suggest about education for African Americans in the 1820s?
<i>Enterprise</i>	1) Where did this article first appear? 2) What does this article describe? 3) Why do you think the editors of <i>Freedom's Journal</i> published this article?

First Hypothesis: What was the purpose of *Freedom's Journal*?

Freedom's Journal Guiding Questions: Round 2

Document	Guiding Questions
<i>Kidnapping Notices</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) When was the first notice originally printed? Where?2) Why do you think the editors printed a notice from Philadelphia in a New York newspaper?3) What was the purpose of the second notice?
<i>Bishop Allen</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Who is Bishop Allen?2) According to this article, what were two of Allen's important accomplishments?3) According to this article, what was a purpose of benevolent societies?4) Why do you think benevolent societies were needed in the 1820s?

Second Hypothesis: What was the purpose of *Freedom's Journal*?

Freedom's Journal Guiding Questions: Round 3

Document	Guiding Questions
<i>Opening Editorial</i>	<p>1) Who wrote this document?</p> <p>When?</p> <p>What was their purpose in writing it?</p> <p>2) According to the first two paragraphs of the editorial, what were two challenges faced by African Americans?</p> <p>3) What rationale for publishing <i>Freedom's Journal</i> do the authors present in the second paragraph?</p> <p>4) What were three ways, according to the authors, that <i>Freedom's Journal</i> could help support African Americans?</p> <p>5) How is the editorial similar to the textbook's explanation of the purpose of <i>Freedom's Journal</i>? How is it different?</p> <p><i>Similarities:</i></p> <p><i>Differences:</i></p>

Freedom's Journal Final Claim

What was the purpose of *Freedom's Journal*?

Make sure to use evidence from at least four documents to support your claim.