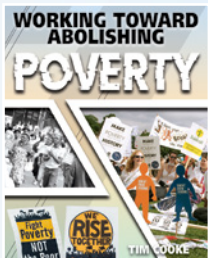


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From Working Toward Abolishing Slavery

The Abolition Movement

The Underground Railroad was part of a number of different campaigns and campaigners organized into what is known as the Abolition Movement. Those involved in the movement, known as abolitionists, called for the complete ending of slavery.

One of the most prominent abolitionists was Frederick Douglass. Douglass was enslaved in Maryland until he escaped in 1838 by disguising himself as a sailor and traveling to New York City. Describing his life as a free man, Douglass later said, "I lived more in one day than in a year of my slave life." Douglass moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he became a preacher. He also began to attend abolitionist meetings and was invited to describe his own experiences. He was a commanding speaker, known for his powerful language that opened his audience's eyes to the cruelty of slavery.



Douglass was inspired by white abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, who published his ideas in a newspaper called *The Liberator*.

Many Acts of Resistance

Speeches were one way that abolitionists showed resistance to slavery. Publications such as books and newspapers were another, and abolitionists also carried out many rescues of enslaved people. These were important acts of resistance that sometimes resulted in activists being arrested and punished. In 1858, prominent abolitionist Charles Henry Langston took part in the Oberlin-

Wellington Rescue. When an escaped enslaved man was arrested by a U.S. marshal in Oberlin, Ohio, and taken to nearby Wellington, Langston was part of a group of citizens and students who organized his rescue. They stormed the hotel where he was being held and brought him back to Oberlin, where he was hid safely. Langston later arranged for his safe passage to freedom in Canada.



KEY PEOPLE