

# Abolitionists of Ontario



# Fugitives and Freeman

*Henry Bibb and Mary Ann Shadd Cary were newspaper publishers who focused on the abolition of slavery in the United States, and in creating better lives for escaped slaves and free black people in the States and Canada.*

*Read an article from their newspapers and then answer the following questions:*

## 1. What is abolition? What is an abolitionist?

- abolition means to eliminate something, destroy it, banish it, make it unthinkable.
- abolition of slavery means to end slavery and make it illegal.
- an abolitionist is someone who believes in, and maybe also fights for, the end of slavery.

## 2. What is a fugitive?

- looked for by police or law enforcement, who will be arrested if found.
- a fugitive from slavery is an escaped slave, probably travelling to freedom.

## 3. What is a freeman?

- a free black person, either born free or made free from slavery, or a successful escaped slave.

## 4. Why did Canada have abolitionists?

- escaped American slaves often came to Canada, where they would be free. Freeman set up communities, societies, advocacy groups, and publishing activities to support abolition in the USA.

5. In these readings, there may be some words, phrases, or names you don't understand. Write them below and look up definitions for them.

Potential answers: Oppressor, Remonstrate, Supplicate, Prostrate, Implored, Trifling, Brine, Overseer, Congenial, Conferred, Disaffected, Brethren, Revivals, Singing Schools

6. In these readings, there may be places referred to in Ontario (Canada West, C.W., or Upper Canada, U.C.), or in the United States, that you don't recognize. Write them below and find them on a map.

Potential answers: Colchester, Liberia, Malden, Raleigh

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