

Library Teacher: Erin Dalbec
Subject: U.S. History
Level: ACP, 11th grade
Lesson Focus: Finding Freedom

“Any time while I was a slave, if one minute’s freedom had been offered to me, and I had been told I must die at the end of that minute, I would have taken it-- just to stand one minute on God’s earth a free woman-- I would”. - Elizabeth “Mum Bett” Freeman

Learning objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Analyze a primary source
- Develop inferences and questions
- Build a timeline of slavery in Massachusetts using dates from secondary and primary sources

Prior to class, students will read an overview on slavery in Massachusetts:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dew9QFM0kShbDQr0pR6Gbhga8ThM2-cmfHqh2ZDIL4c/edit?usp=sharing>

5 minutes- Questions to spark dialog at the beginning of class:

- Enslaved people were coming from Africa at least by 1641 and slavery was legally sanctioned. Were there any other groups of people being enslaved at that time?
- What do you think strengthened slavery?
- What do you think weakened the case for slavery?
- Do you think that slaves were simply released when Massachusetts ruled it to be illegal?

40 minutes- There will be 5 tables, 4 students to a table. Students will read a short secondary biographical source about the person featured at that table. They will then analyze a primary source relating to that person. They will get 20 minutes to read, write down a question about what they read and take notes. They will then pick another enslaved person.

- Mum Bett: [Transcript of Brom & Bett vs. J. Ashley Esq.](#)
- Quock Walker: [The Quock Walker Case](#)
- Belinda Sutton: [Belinda Sutton and Belinda's Petition](#)
- Prince: [Prince, an enslaved 9 year old boy](#)
- Anthony Burns: [Anthony Burns- Broadside](#)

Students will observe primary source documents for the person that they chose and they will circle dates, people, locations, legislation. They will write down questions and inferences they gather from the reading.

10 minutes- Students will create a slavery in Massachusetts timeline featuring all of the key dates they have read about and pulled from primary sources.

Name:
Source's name:

Facts:
Dates

Locations

Relationships

Legislation/Act

Inferences:

Question/what would you like to learn more about?

Source #2 name:

Facts:
Dates

Locations

Relationships

Legislation/Act

Inferences:

Question/what would you like to learn more about?