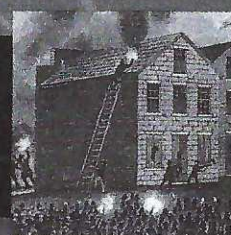


networks

There's More Online!

- ✓ **BIOGRAPHY**
Sojourner Truth
- ✓ **GRAPH** Slavery in the
United States
- ✓ **GRAPHIC ORGANIZER**
Prominent Abolitionists
- ✓ **MAP** Liberia
- ✓ **SLIDE SHOW** Farm Labor in the
United States



Lesson 2

The Abolitionists

ESSENTIAL QUESTION *What motivates people to act?*

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

The growing demands of abolitionists helped deepen the divide between North and South.

The Start of the Abolition Movement

GUIDING QUESTION *How did Americans' attitudes toward slavery change?*

Among the reformers of the early 1800s were **abolitionists** (a-buh•LIH•shuhn•ihsts), who sought the end of slavery. Though their voices were growing, their cause was not a new one.

The Early Movement

Even before the Revolution, some Americans had tried to limit or end slavery. Early antislavery societies generally believed slavery had to be ended gradually. First they wanted to stop the slave trade. Then they would phase out slavery itself. Supporters believed that ending slavery gradually would give the South's economy time to adjust to the loss of enslaved labor.

At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, delegates debated slavery and its future. The delegates reached a compromise, allowing each state to decide whether to allow the practice.

By the early 1800s, the Northern states had officially ended slavery there. The practice continued in the South. In fact, the rise of the Cotton Kingdom increased the use of enslaved labor.

The reform movement of the early and mid-1800s gave new life to the antislavery cause. A growing number of Americans were coming to believe slavery was wrong and that the practice should end.

New York Academic Standards

7.7a, 7.7b, 7.7c

Reading **HELPDESK**



Taking Notes: Identifying

As you read, use a diagram like this one to identify five abolitionists. Below each name, write a brief description of his or her role in the movement.



Content Vocabulary

- **abolitionist**

Many who led the antislavery movement came from the Quaker faith. One Quaker, Benjamin Lundy, founded a newspaper in Ohio in 1821 called the *Genius of Universal Emancipation*. Its purpose was to spread the abolitionist message. “I heard the wail of the captive,” he wrote. “I felt his pang of distress, and the iron entered my soul.”

The Colonization Plan

There were many barriers to ending slavery. Many white Northerners still supported the practice. Even some white abolitionists worried about the effect free African Americans would have on society. They did not like the idea of hundreds of thousands of former enslaved people living in the United States.

In 1816 a group of powerful whites formed the American Colonization Society. They planned to send free African Americans to Africa to start new lives. The society raised money to send free African Americans out of the country. Some went to the west coast of Africa, where the society acquired land for a colony. The first settlers arrived in Liberia (“place of freedom”) in 1822. In 1847 Liberia declared itself an independent republic.

The American Colonization Society did not stop the growth of slavery. It helped resettle only about 10,000 African Americans by the mid-1860s. Only a few African Americans wanted to go to Africa, while most wanted to be free in America.

✓ PROGRESS CHECK

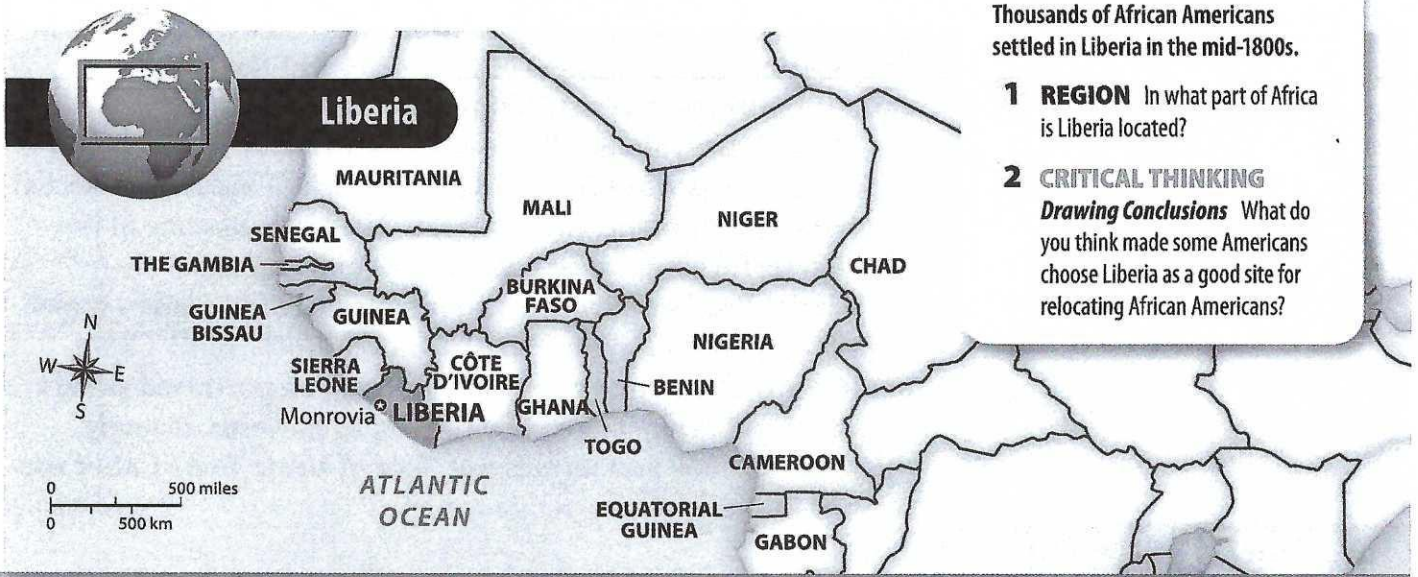
Identifying What was the purpose of the American Colonization Society?

GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

Thousands of African Americans settled in Liberia in the mid-1800s.

1 REGION In what part of Africa is Liberia located?

2 CRITICAL THINKING
Drawing Conclusions What do you think made some Americans choose Liberia as a good site for relocating African Americans?



abolitionist person who sought the end of slavery in the United States in the early 1800s