



Slavery and the Civil War Resource List for Grades 5 through 8

The Resources in this document can be used with the Slavery and the Civil War Curriculum Packet for grades 5 through 8.

Books

Non-fiction and Biography

- 5,000 Miles to Freedom : Ellen and William Craft's Flight From Slavery, 2006 by Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin (Authors).
Ellen and William Craft were two of the few slaves to ever escape the Deep South. Pursued by slave hunters, they moved from Boston to England until they found peace.
- Amos Fortune, Free Man, 1989 by Elizabeth Yates (Author).
The life of the eighteenth-century African prince who, after being captured by slave traders, was brought to Massachusetts where he was a slave until he was able to buy his freedom at the age of sixty.
- Christmas In The Big House, Christmas In The Quarters, 1994 by Patricia C. McKissack (Author).
Describes the customs, recipes, poems, and songs used to celebrate Christmas in the big plantation houses and in the slave quarters just before the Civil War.
- The Civil War, 1996 by Martin Sandler (Author).
More than 100 photographs and illustrations from the Library of Congress bring to life to the story of the War Between the States. Civil War is a well-researched record of the camp life, the battles, and the deeds of men in the Union and Confederate armies.
- The Civil War by the Numbers, 2015 by Amanda Lanser (Author).
How many African-American soldiers fought on each side of the U.S. Civil War? How many soldiers died from disease rather than in battle? Numbers, high-impact stats, and a unique infographic format combine to present the gripping story of the Civil War.
- Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States, 2004 by Patricia C & Fredrick L. McKissack (Author).
Explains how freedom did not arrive in one moment. Using many primary sources, the authors chronicle the many days of jubilee, freedom, that African Americans experienced throughout American history.
- Enemies of Slavery, 2005 by David Adler (Author), Donald A Smith (Illustrator).
Fighting with words and weapons, the thirteen individuals profiled in this book stand as heroes in the battle against slavery in America. These men and women devoted their lives to human rights and the promise of their democracy.
- Eyewitness Civil War (DK Eyewitness Books), 2011 by John Stanchak (Author).
Examines many aspects of the Civil War, including the issue of slavery, secession, the raising of armies, individual battles, the commanders, Northern life, Confederate culture, the surrender of the South, and the aftermath.

- Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life, 2016 by Ashley Bryan (Author/Illustrator).
Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents, Ashley Bryan offers a moving and powerful picture book that contrasts the monetary value of a slave with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams that a slave owner could never take away.
- From Slave Ship to Freedom Road, 1999 by Julius Lester (Author), Rod Brown (Illustrator).
A collection of images and commentary asking the reader to imagine what it must have been like to be a slave, and what impact that past has on African-Americans. This book presents not just historical facts, but the raw emotions of the people who lived them.
- If You Lived When There Was Slavery In America, 2004 by Anne Kamma (Author).
It is hard to imagine that, once, a person in America could be "owned" by another person. But from the time the colonies were settled in the 1600s until the end of the Civil War in 1865, millions of black people were bought and sold like goods.
- Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom, 1995 by Virginia Hamilton (Author), Leo Dillon (Illustrator), Diane Dillon Ph.D. (Illustrator).
This book traces the history of slavery in America in the voices and stories of those who lived it. The brilliant black-and-white illustrations echo the stories' subtlety and power, making this book as stunning to look at as it is to read.
- Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl, 2015 by Tonya Bolden (Author).
The poignant story, based on the memoir of Maritcha Rémond Lyons, shows what it was like to be a black child born free and living in New York City in the mid-1800s.
- Now Is Your Time! The African-American Struggle for Freedom, 1991 by Walter Dean Myers (Author).
A history of the African-American struggle for freedom and equality, beginning with the capture of Africans in 1619, continuing through the American Revolution, the Civil War, and into contemporary times.
- A Primary Source History of Slavery in the United States, 2015 by Allison Crotzer Kimmel (Author).
For more than 100 years, slavery was a way of life in the United States. Many people believed slavery was necessary and right. Many others fought tirelessly to end it. Hear the words they spoke. Read the words they read. And see the differing points of view about slavery through the eyes of the people who lived it.
- Rebels Against Slavery: American Slave Revolts, 1998 by Pat McKissack (Author), Fredrick McKissack (Author).
A tribute to unsung antislavery heroes, including Cinque, an African captive who was defended before the Supreme Court by John Quincy Adams; rebel Nat Turner; and Harriet Tubman.
- Sojourner Truth: From Slave to Activist for Freedom, 2003 by Mary Butler (Author).
Profiles the life of Sojourner Truth, born a slave and later freed, as she fought for equal rights for African Americans and woman.
- Stolen into Slavery: The True Story of Solomon Northup, Free Black Man, 2012 by Judith Bloom Fradin (Author), Dennis Brindell Fradin (Author).
The true story behind the acclaimed movie 12 Years a Slave, this book is based on the life of Solomon Northup, a free black man from New York who was captured in the United States and sold into slavery in Louisiana.

- The Underground Abductor : An Abolitionist Tale about Harriet Tubman, 2015 by Nathan Hale (Author/Illustrator).
Araminta Ross was born a slave in Delaware in the early 19th century. Slavery meant that her family could be ripped apart at any time, and that she could be put to work in dangerous places and for abusive people. But north of the Mason-Dixon line, slavery was illegal.

Fiction

- Come Morning, 1995 by Leslie Davis Guccione (Author).
Twelve-year-old Freedom wants to help his father in the Underground Railroad. When the chance comes, he realized the dangers and commitment of his father and the abolitionists.
- Elijah of Buxton, 2007 by Christopher Paul Curtis (Author).
In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, a free-born child in Buxton, Canada, a haven from the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money to buy a family's freedom.
- Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule, 2000 by Harriette Gillem Robinet (Author), Wendell Minor (Illustrator).
Like other ex-slaves, Pascal and his older brother Gideon have been promised forty acres and maybe a mule. With the family of friends they have built along the way, they claim a place of their own. Green Gloryland is the most wonderful place on earth, their own family farm with a healthy cotton crop and plenty to eat. But the notorious night riders have plans to take it away.
- I Lay My Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery, 2012 by Cynthia Grady (Author), Michele Wood (Illustrator).
A volume of moving poems considers the experiences of slaves in a variety of circumstances including a house slave, a mother who loses her daughter on the auction block, and a slave fleeing through the Underground Railroad.
- In the Hollow of Your Hand, 2000 by Alice McGill (Author), Michael Cummings (Author).
Slave lullabies, created from the African-American experience, were sung to give hope for a better time to come. Although these lullabies were born of hardship and overwhelming sadness, they can be thought of as musical stories for children and adults.
- If I Just Had Two Wings, 2002 by Virginia Schwartz (Author).
In her dreams, Phoebe twirls through rows of sea island cotton as a white dress blows around her knees like a breeze. As she dances, she loses all memory of being born a slave on an Alabama plantation.
- January's Sparrow, 2009 by Patricia Polacco (Author, Illustrator).
Dear January has been beaten and killed by the plantation master, and they fear who may be next. But Sadie must leave behind her most valuable possession, the wooden sparrow carved for her by January.
- A Light in the Storm: The Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin (Dear America), 1999 by Karen Hesse (Author).
Captures the emotions of a young Union girl who struggles to make sense of her shattered world as she lives in a state of harsh division during the first year of the Civil War.
- The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg, 2009 by Rodman Philbrick (Author).
Young Homer Figg sets off to follow his brother into the thick of the Civil War. Through a series of fascinating events, Homer's older brother has been illegally sold to the Union Army. It is up to Homer to find him and save him.

- Never Forgotten, 2011 by Patricia C. McKissack (Author).
Set in West Africa, this a lyrical story-in-verse is about a young black boy who is kidnapped and sold into slavery, and his father who is left behind to mourn the loss of his son. Here's a beautiful, powerful, truly unforgettable story about family, memory, and freedom.
- A School for Pompey Walker, 1995 by Michael J. Rosen (Author), Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson (Author).
Pompey Walker dreams of going to school, but as a slave in the 1830s, this is only a dream, until slavery-hating Jeremiah Walker, son-in-law of the plantation owner, buys Pompey's freedom.
- When Will This Cruel War Be Over?: The Civil War Diary of Emma Simpson, Gordonsville, Virginia, 1864 (Dear America Series), 1996 by Barry Denenberg (Author).
A Confederate girl in Gordonsville, Virginia, in 1864, Emma Simpson writes about the hardships of growing up during a turbulent time, as the Civil War tears her family and her nation apart.

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- Civil War by Kids Discover
After years of acrimonious disputes, history was made when 11 southern states seceded from the Union, which launched the Civil War. For kids studying this era, this issue brings the battles and heroes of this war to life with vivid descriptions and photos. They'll spend time learning about how the difference of opinion over slavery and states' rights, along with the election of Northerner Abraham Lincoln in 1860, ultimately culminated in what is called the first "modern war."
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/civil-war-for-kids/d>
- Underground Railroad by Kids Discover
Perfect for studying Civil War history, this issue paints a stark portrait of African American slave life during this period, and chronicles how many slaves risked their lives and the lives of those who helped them, to escape to the free North through these secret "train" routes. Get an overview of slavery in the U.S., and then get introduced to railroad heroes, like Harriet Tubman and helpers, like Levi Coffin, the "president" of the Underground Railroad.
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/underground-railroad-for-kids/>,

Online Links

- Library of Congress: From Slavery to Civil Rights
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/civil-rights/>
- National Civil War Museum
<https://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/>

Background information for the Educator

- Southern Poverty Law Center: Teaching Hard History
<https://www.splcenter.org/20180131/teaching-hard-history>
- Teaching For Change: Building Social Justice in the Classroom
<https://www.teachingforchange.org/>
- Teaching Tolerance: Slavery
<https://www.tolerance.org/search?query=slavery>