

## **African American History Challenge Life Upon These Shores**

### **Part One—Origins 1513-1760**

#### A. African Slaves, African Conquistadors

1. The first African slaves in North America landed where, in what month and year?
2. What percent of the 12.5 million Africans shipped to the New World as slaves were captured by Africans and sold to Europeans?
3. Which occurred first, the arrival of African slaves at Jamestown, Virginia, or the arrival of Europeans at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts?
4. Over the entire course of the slave trade, how many Africans were shipped directly to the United States?
5. Of the 12.5 million Africans shipped to the New World, how many survived the Middle Passage?
6. About half of all the Africans enslaved through the history of the slave trade were shipped from what area of Africa?
7. Name at least four other “countries” in the New World where African slaves ended up.
8. Name at least four European nations that held slaves in the New World.

9. Of these listed European explorations, which—if any—  
included blacks: Balboa (Pacific Ocean), Cortes  
(Mexico), Pizarro (Peru), Coronado (Arizona)?
10. The most famous African slave explorer participated  
in explorations in Florida, Texas and northern Mexico  
before he was executed in New Mexico in 1539. His  
name was?

### B. Origins of North American Slavery

1. In their rush to exploit the resources of the New World,  
the Portuguese and the Spanish at first attempted to  
enslave which group?
2. As the native population of the New World declined  
from maltreatment and imported diseases, Europeans  
began to import what group to serve as slaves?
3. When the Spanish established St. Augustine, Florida,  
in 1565, they found a free African already living there. His  
name was?

### C. From Red To Black Slavery

1. In 1610, a Maroon settlement became a free and self-  
governing Black city, located near modern-day  
Veracruz, Mexico. Name the settlement and the  
leader who freed it from the Spanish.
2. One of the most important African leaders who sold  
captured Africans to Europeans was whom?
3. In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century England tried to put slavery into  
effect only very gradually, while restricting the

growth of tobacco in Virginia. This was resisted by which group (other than the slaves)?

#### D. First Africans And The Growth of Northern Slavery

1. Before the Dutch introduced slavery into New Amsterdam in 1627, a free Black had lived there since 1613. Give his name and the ethnic definition given his group by various historians.
2. During the period 1619 to 1700, in the American colonies the movement toward perpetual and heritable slavery was complex and halting. Briefly describe this evolution in Virginia, including the use of the date 1662.

#### E. Royal African Company

1. In 1672, what company was founded by the English Crown to provide more African slaves to the American colonies?
2. Name the philosopher who advocated liberty and freedom for Englishmen and American colonists while at the same time approving total domination of Whites over Blacks.
3. In the early 1700's, a man from Senegal was a key to the British establishing their system of slave trading in Africa. Give either of his names.

#### F. Early Misgivings

1. Even as slavery was becoming entrenched in America, some leaders spoke against it. Name the two popular written protests circulated by White colonists, one in 1688, the other in 1700.

### G. Fear and Resistance

1. Beginning in 1703, which Christian denomination and minister opened a school for the religious instruction of slaves in New York?
2. In the early 1700's in New York, the main fear of those opposed to educating slaves was what?

### H. Inoculation

1. The Puritan leader Cotton Mather once described how an African named Onesimus brought a life-saving medical technique to the greater European world. What was this technique?

### I. Fort Mose: A Different Trajectory

1. In their rivalry with the English colonists in Carolina and Georgia, the Spanish helped escaped Americans establish a town near St Augustine, Florida. The name of this town was?
2. In 1739, twenty slaves revolted at a river near Charleston, South Carolina. This river was named?

## **Part Two—Forging Freedom (1760 – 1804)**

### **A. First Blooms**

1. In 1765 this immigrant from Haiti established a trading post in northeast Illinois, thus founding the city of Chicago. Name him.
2. In 1760, this Massachusetts slave wrote the first slave narrative published in North America, thus creating the model for hundreds of slave narratives to follow. Name him.
3. On Christmas day 1760, this New York slave presented the first poem written by an African American. Name him.
4. In 1773, this slave, born in Senegal and reared in Boston, published the first book of poems written in English by a Black person. Name her.

### **B. Crispus Attucks And The Freedom Struggle**

1. The first colonist killed in the series of volatile events that led to the American Revolution was a Black man. Name him and name the violent event he died in.
2. In 1772, in Britain, a court decision asserting that no British law existed upholding slavery probably was a pivotal milestone in overturning slavery. Name this decision.

### **C. Colored Patriots**

1. In the American Revolution, how many Black men fought for the American Continental army and who was the Black soldier praised for heroism by fourteen officers?

2. In the American Revolution, the most celebrated Black spy was whom?
3. The extent of African American involvement in combat against Britain changed as the Revolutionary War proceeded. Broadly describe this change, from the beginning of the war to the end.

D. The King's Freedom

1. During the American Revolution, what was the Dunmore Proclamation?
2. In discussing the Revolutionary War, Dr. Gates describes one particular situation as "the largest act of slave resistance in American history." Briefly explain what he is referring to.

E. Declaring Independence

1. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...and are endowed by their Creator with ...the right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." These words were written by an American leader who owned hundreds of slaves. Name him.
2. In the American Declaration of Independence, who was blamed for the introduction of slavery into English America?

F. Unleashing Freedom

1. In 1775, a group of white Pennsylvanians founded a group that began the first organized resistance to slavery. Name the organization.

2. In 1777, which state abolished slavery?
  3. Name at least two specific non-violent ways in which slaves attempted to gain freedom during the Revolutionary War period.
- G. Freedom, Technology And King Cotton
1. In 1787, the American government passed a law that would forbid slavery in the territory comprising the present states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. What was the name of this law?
  2. In 1787, the newly written Constitution of the United States contained three provisions that strongly supported slavery in America. Name these provisions.
  3. In the 1790's, in Georgia, one man created a machine that greatly increased the planting of cotton. Name the man and the machine.
- H. Establishing Freedom
1. The founder of Black Freemasonry and the leader of 18<sup>th</sup> Century black Boston was whom?
  2. During the late 1700's, these two Black leaders founded the Free African Society. Name them.
  3. In 1794, this Black leader became the minister of the first independent Black church in America. Name him.
  4. In 1816, this Black leader organized a separate Black Christian denomination, starting with the Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Name him.

I. Creating A Black Atlantic

1. In the 1792, this freeborn African American mathematician and astronomer published the first of his many almanacs. He later helped survey and layout the new capital. Name him.
2. In 1789, this British antislavery activist wrote the only substantial description of the Middle Passage from the slave's viewpoint.

J. Toussaint!

1. As the main leader in the Haitian Revolution, this man became governor of Haiti in 1796. Name him.
2. In 1800, this slave led a revolt in Richmond, Virginia. Name him.
3. In 1822, in Charleston, South Carolina, this free Black led a plot to burn the city and free the slaves. Name him.

## **Part Three – “It Shall Ever Be Our Duty To Vindicate Our Brethren” (1800 – 1834)**

### **A. Tracing The Trade**

1. About what percent of the Africans shipped to the New World as slaves were children?
2. During the slave trade, the trip from Africa to the New World took about how long?
3. During the slave trade, due to filthy conditions and the lack of water and food, about what percent of the captives died in route to America?

### **B. End Of The Slave Trade, In Britain And The United States, 1807 And 1808**

1. An essay published in 1788 by a British activist eventually led to the end of the slave trade in Britain in 1807. Name the person who wrote the essay.
2. Based upon Article 1, section 9 of the United States Constitution, Congress passed a law that took effect on January 01, 1808. What was the intent of this law?

### **C. Serving Freedom In The War of 1812**

1. In 1814, in the Battle of New Orleans, Black soldiers proved critical to victory over the British. Name the Black officer who led the Black soldiers.
2. In 1813, in a naval battle on Lake Erie, a Black sailor saved the life of the American commanding admiral. Name the Black sailor.

D. Yarrow Mamout...And The Rise Of A People

1. By the early 1800's, free Blacks in the North were starting businesses. This is illustrated by a Senegalese immigrant who became a financially successful brick-layer and basket-maker in the District of Columbia. Name this person.
2. This free Black Philadelphian acquired wealth as a master sail-maker in the early 1800's. Name him.

E. Colonization And Liberia

1. This organization was founded in 1816 and helped establish the colony of Liberia by transporting thousands of African Americans to West Africa. Name the organization.
2. In the 1800's abolitionists opposed the American Colonization Society mainly for what reason?

F. A Firebell In The Night

1. In 1824, in response to increasingly hostile racism in the United States, 6000 Black Americans moved to which Caribbean nation?
2. In 1820, the Missouri Compromise was passed by the Congress of the United States. What were the three main provisions of this act?

G. Freedom's Journal And Walker's Appeal

1. In 1827, the nation's first African American newspaper published its first words. Give the name of this newspaper and the names of its two editors.

2. In 1829, a free Black living in Boston published “An Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World”, an aggressive repudiation of slavery and racial prejudice. Give the more common name of his essay and the name of the author.

#### H. The Liberator And William Lloyd Garrison

1. In 1831, a White man from Massachusetts highlighted the first edition of his antislavery newspaper with the words, “...I will not retreat...and I WILL BE HEARD!” Give the name of the man and of the newspaper.
2. This newspaper, supported strongly by Blacks,--who distributed it and wrote articles for it-- spread antislavery sentiment more than any paper prior to the Civil War. Name the newspaper and its publisher.

#### I. Nat Turner

1. In August 1831, this Southampton, Virginia, slave led seventy armed slaves in a revolt that killed about sixty Whites. Name this leader.
2. The Turner Rebellion of 1831 ultimately led Southerners to harden their attitudes and defend slavery by describing it in what way?

#### J. The Founding Of The American Antislavery Society

1. The organization founded in 1833 to unite the abolitionist movement around immediate emancipation had what name?

2. This movement, started by Richard Allen in 1830, convened regularly until 1864 in order to debate the major issues facing Blacks in America. What was the popular description of this movement.
  
3. This New Englander had a great impact on the early years of the antislavery movement and in 1831 was the first Black woman to publish a political manifesto. Name her.

## **Part Four – Race And Resistance (1834 – 1850)**

### **A. Oberlin College**

1. This college, founded in Ohio for Whites in 1833, admitted more Black students before the Civil War than all other American colleges combined. Name it.
2. George Vashon was the first African American graduate of this college, and John Langston, the founder of the Howard University Law School, also graduated from this same college. Name the college.

### **B. Magician And Ventriloquist**

1. Born the son of a Massachusetts slave, by 1818 he became the most successful Black ventriloquist and magician in the world. Name him.
2. After 1831, the most successful Black ventriloquist and magician in America stopped performing in the South, because of racial tension following what episode?

### **C. Julia Chinn**

1. This slave was in a common-law relationship with Richard Johnson, the Vice-President to President Martin Van Buren. Name this slave.
2. Prior to the Civil War, during their campaign against slavery, abolitionists roundly condemned what kind of sexual liaisons?

D. An Uncompromising Talent

1. This New Yorker received a medical degree in Paris in 1837, thus becoming the first African American to receive a medical degree. Name him.
2. The free man who was the first African American to receive a medical degree gained even more renown as a radical abolitionist during the middle 1800's. Name him.

E. Opposing Black Freedom

1. During the 1830's and 1840's, few northern cities with significant Black communities escaped racial violence. A large factor in this was the large increase in a particular group of workers—workers who now competed with Blacks for jobs. Name this group.
2. In Philadelphia in 1838, White and Black abolitionists worked with the local Anti-Slavery Society to raise funds to build a facility where abolitionists could meet safely. What was the name of this building and what happened to it?

F. The Amistad And The Creole

1. In the 1841, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Africans from the Amistad had been kidnapped and were justified in staging a mutiny. Name the leader of this mutiny.
2. In 1841, a ship headed from Richmond to New Orleans was taken over in an uprising by the 135 captive slaves. Name the ship.

### G. Finding Freedom In Massachusetts

1. This law, passed in 1793, reinforced the Constitution by explicitly authorizing magistrates to certify the return of escaped slaves to their owners. Name the law.
2. During the 1840's, thousands signed petitions demanding that the state should forbid the arrest and detention of escaped slaves. Who was the escaped Virginia slave that caused these petition efforts?

### H. Frederick Douglass

1. In 1845, Frederick Douglass published the first of his three autobiographies. What was the name of this book?
2. In 1855, Frederick Douglass published the first of his three newspapers. What was the name of this newspaper?

### I. Crosscurrents Of 1848: French Abolition And The Pearl

1. In 1848, the French Emancipation Law was passed by the French government. It did what?
2. In April of 1848, a White man named Drayton sailed his ship to a wharf in Washington, D.C. where he assisted in the escape of over seventy slaves. What was the name of his ship?

### J. Rush For Gold

1. During the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century gold rush, this Underground Railroad activist fled to California to escape enslavement, and helped develop San Francisco's Black community. Name him.

2. During the California gold rush, although oppressed by Whites, Black miners did well with several groups that did not practice racism. Name one of these groups.

K. Harriet Tubman, American Icon

1. In 1849, this woman escaped from slavery, and eventually made fourteen trips back to Maryland and liberated at least seventy slaves. Name her.
2. This Underground Railroad worker also served in the Civil War, especially as a nurse and a spy. Name her.

L. The Roberts Case And The Birth Of Jim Crow

1. In this ruling in 1850 by the Massachusetts Supreme Court, the practice of segregation by race in public schools was officially ordered for the first time in the United States. Name the case.
2. After several years of petitioning this governmental body, segregation in the Boston Public Schools was ended in 1855. Name the governmental body that responded to petitions.

## Part Five – EMERGENCE 1850 (1850 – 1860)

### A. The New Fugitive Slave Law

1. Under the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, the fate of an accused fugitive was determined NOT by a jury but instead by what government official?
2. Under the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, the government official who decided the fate of a fugitive was paid by whom?

### B. Resisting The Fugitive Slave Law

1. In the mid-1850's, Shadrach Minkins, Thomas Sims, and William McHenry (known as Jerry) had what in common with regards to federal law.

### C. Martin R. Delany And Harriet Beecher Stowe

1. An early guide to Black nationalism was a book written in 1852, entitled, "*The Condition, Elevation, Emigration and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States.*" Who wrote this book?
2. The book, "*Uncle Tom's Cabin,*" written in 1852, radically changed the national conversation about slavery. Who wrote this book?

### D. Institute For Colored Youth

1. This institute, founded in 1852, was initially headed by the nation's first Black professor, and became the most important Black school in Philadelphia. Name it.

E. The Black Swan

1. This ex-slave had an astonishing vocal range, became one of the best singers in the world, and performed for the queen of England in 1854. Give her real name and stage name.

F. Clotel Or, The President's Daughter And Colored Patriots Of The American Revolution

1. In 1853, William Wells Brown published this book based upon a slave giving birth to Thomas Jefferson's child. Name the book .
2. In 1855, "*The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*" was published. Name its author.

G. Anthony Burns

1. In 1854, the intense resistance by the people of Boston to the trial of this fugitive slave resulted in him being the last fugitive returned to slavery from New England. Name the fugitive.

H. John Mercer Langston And The Bar Of Justice

1. In 1855, in Ohio, this man became the nation's first elected Black official—and then, in 1869, founded the legal department at Howard University. Name him.

I. Berea College And Wilberforce University.

1. During the mid-1850's African Americans could attend two new colleges that were completely open to their education. Name the two colleges.

J. Dred Scott

1. In this case, decided in 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that African Americans were not citizens of the United States, had no privileges granted by the Constitution, and were not entitled to sue in court. Name the case.
2. In this case, decided in 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled—among other critical matters—that Congress had no authority to regulate slavery in the territories. Name the case.

K. Our Nig

1. This 1859 book, the first novel published by an African American woman, condemned both Northern prejudice and Christianity as practiced in America. Name the book.