

Lesson 3: Slavery and the Civil War

Getting Started

? Big Ideas

- What is our relationship with history?
- How do historical events impact the present?
- How and why do we honor historical people, events, and places today?



Facts and Definitions

- **Slavery** is when a person "owns" another human and that human does not have his or her freedom.
- **Freedom** is when a person can act, speak, and think without fear of punishment.
- The people who wanted to free the slaves were called **abolitionists**.



Skills

- Identify contributions of historical figures. (SS)
- Recognize that historical events are often led by dynamic personalities that may help set a course that can change history. (SS)



Materials

- ✓ *O, Say Can You See? America's Symbols, Landmarks, and Important Words* by Sheila Keenan
- ✓ *Your Life as a Settler in Colonial America* by Thomas Kingsley Troupe
- ✓ glue
- ✓ map of the United States
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ tape or glue

Introduction

Explain to your child that the colonies had a very sad and unfair practice called slavery. **Slavery** is when a human being is owned and treated like property by another human being. Slaves did not have freedom and were often mistreated by their owners.

Re-read to your child pages 24 and 25 in *Your Life as a Settler in Colonial America* by Thomas Kingsley Troupe. Explain that a war was fought over the issue of slavery. This war was called the Civil War and was fought so that all people could be free. Show your child the following video.

Slavery in the 13 Colonies

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/5728

<https://youtu.be/MvlgMQsPABM>

Note: The purpose of this lesson is to get students to understand that slavery was a terrible practice that had to be stopped. In this lesson, we have to be sensitive to young children's emotional development. We do not want to highlight the violence of slavery and war, but we want the students to be empathetic to those who lived as slaves and those who fought in war. We want to celebrate people who stood up to defend those who could not defend themselves and celebrate those who took great risks to help people in trouble. The goal is that students will be able to recognize when something is unjust and have the courage to help and do the right thing, even when it is hard. We also want to children to pay respect to soldiers who lost their lives fighting for something they believed in.

Activities

Activity 1: Slavery/Book Activity

Have your child watch the following video of *Henry's Freedom Box* by Ellen Levine read aloud. Before you begin, tell your child that the book is based on a true story about a man who was a slave in Virginia.

Henry's Freedom Box
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/7803
https://youtu.be/L6rf9bxDK1o

Discuss that Henry had to have some specific and helpful character traits to escape from slavery the way she did.

On the cube pattern on the "Character Traits" page, have your child list five character traits that Henry exhibited. He can write one character trait in each box. Have him explain each trait with evidence from the book as he writes it. The sixth side of the cube has Henry's name and picture.

When your child finishes listing the character traits, he can cut out the pattern and make a box to represent Henry. Assist your child as needed in assembling the cube.

Activity 2: Harriet Tubman

Explain to your child that many slaves tried to escape slavery so they could be free. This was very dangerous because their owners or others might find them and punish them. There was a woman who herself was a slave. She escaped to freedom and spent her life helping other slaves escape.

Show your child the following two videos. Read the text aloud to him as he watches.

Celebrating Black History – Harriet Tubman
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/5729
https://youtu.be/x18h7nCujX8

Harriet Tubman Story
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/5730
https://youtu.be/NO_gRFYgXMo

Watch the second video again and encourage your child to listen closely to the song as it also tells Harriet's story. Remind your child that when we can learn about history through sources like books, videos, and even songs.

On his timeline, have him identify the next date by looking at the previous date. Have him find the description of what Tubman did. Have him add the date, picture, and description to the timeline.

Next, have your child complete the "Harriett Tubman" page for his "Famous Americans" book (found on the "Famous Americans Book, Part 2" sheet; your child will fill out the "Abraham Lincoln" page in Activity 3).

Possible Answers:

Harriet Tubman was a slave, but she escaped/ran away. Harriet Tubman first helped rescue her own family from slavery. Then she risked her life to help free many more slaves.

Activity 3: Abraham Lincoln

Ask your child what he knows about Abraham Lincoln. Explain to him that Lincoln was president at a very important time in our country's history. A war had to be fought in order for slaves to be granted their freedom. President Lincoln was the president who declared this war, and he changed the laws so that people would be banned from owning slaves.

Show your child the following video about Abraham Lincoln's life.

Biography of Abraham Lincoln for Kids
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/5731
https://youtu.be/ftjYG1TYaos

Tell your child to find the next year that goes on the timeline and identify what Lincoln did on that date. Have him add the date, picture, and description to the timeline. Next, have him complete the "Abraham Lincoln" page for his "Famous Americans" book. If there are some answers your child doesn't remember, have him watch the video again.

Possible Answers:

Abraham Lincoln page was the 16th president of the United States. He outlawed the practice of slavery. His nickname was Honest Abe.

Activity 4: Civil War

Explain to your child that during Lincoln's time in history, many farmers in America had slave labor to work on their farms. They felt they needed slaves to keep their farms going to make as much money as they could. Most of these farmers lived in the southern states. Show your child the southern states on a map of the United States.

There were many other people in the country who thought that slavery was wrong and who knew that some farmers mistreated their slaves. These people thought that all humans had a right to freedom. The people who wanted to free the slaves were called **abolitionists**.

The United States was divided. The farmers in the south did not think the government had the right to tell them they couldn't own slaves, but some people in the north knew the practice of slavery was wrong. The southern states wanted to break away and form their own country. They made their own flag. A war was fought between the southern states and the northern states. As president, Lincoln knew it was his duty to make sure that all people were free, even if it meant a war.

Have your child identify the next date that should go on the timeline, the description of what happened, and the illustration. Have him add those pieces to the timeline.

Tell your child that the northern states won the war, and all slaves were soon given their freedom! Many soldiers lost their lives in the war, but the war resulted in freedom for all people in the United States.

Activity 5: Lincoln Memorial

Read about the Lincoln Memorial on p. 20 and 21 of the book *O, Say Can You See?* After reading about the memorial, have your child find the picture of the Lincoln Memorial on the "National Monuments and What They Represent" page found on Day 4 of Lesson 2. Ask him to glue the accompanying description to it.

Activity 7: Connecting with the Past

Review the idea with your child that the America we love and enjoy living in today is a result of events that occurred in the past and the efforts of brave, heroic people.

Have your child complete the "Slavery and the Civil War" page. He can draw a picture and complete the sentence at the

bottom. He should hold on to this page for the final project.

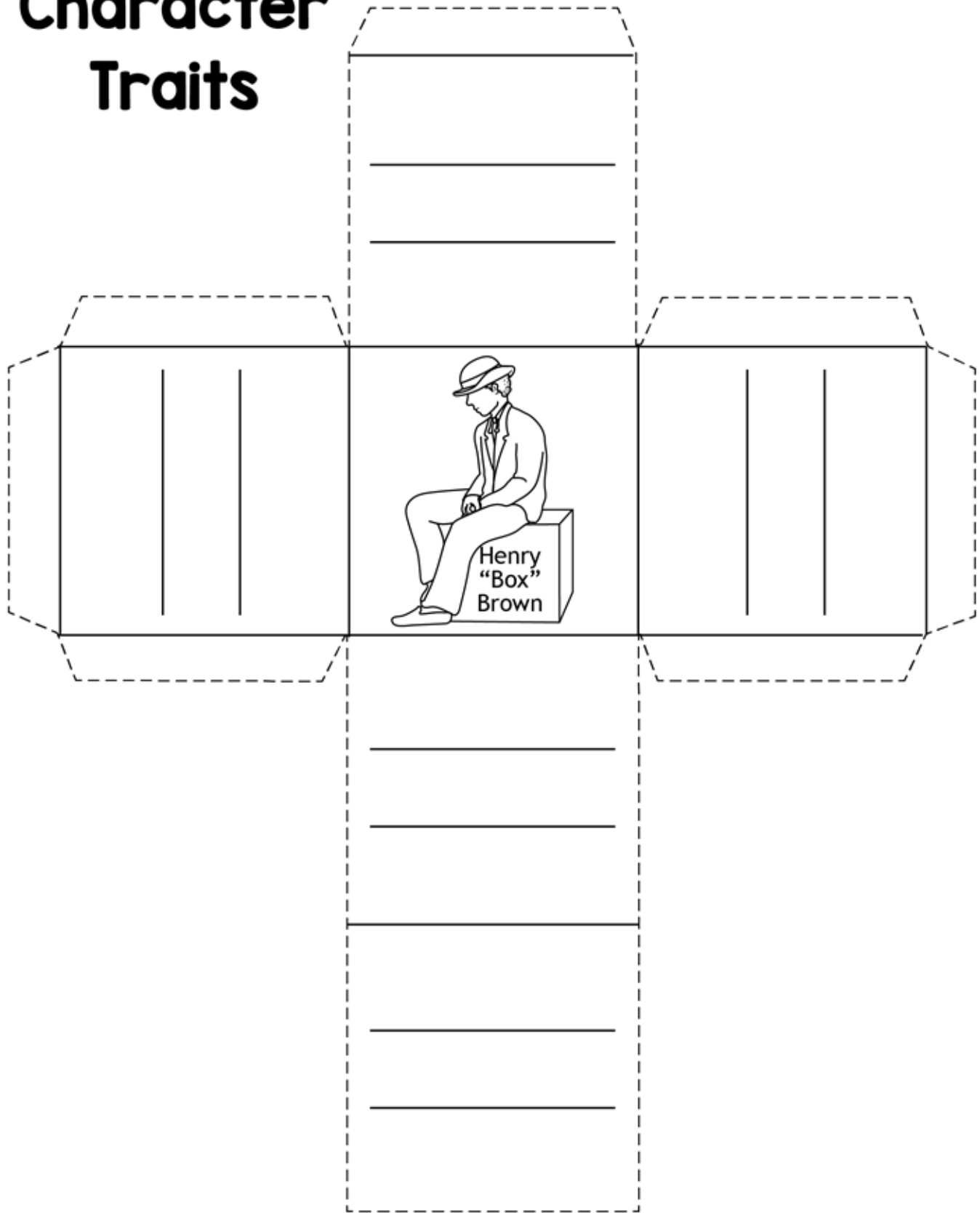
Possible Answers:

Because the Civil War was fought, today (answers could include that all people are now free, slaves were freed, people were no longer able to own slaves).

Wrapping Up

Read about President's Day on page 55 in the book *O, Say Can You See?* Explain that President's Day is celebrated in February because Lincoln and Washington's birthdays were both in February, but the day honors all people who have served as president of the United States.

Character Traits



Harriet Tubman



Harriet Tubman was a slave, but she _____ Harriet _____.

Tubman first helped rescue her own _____.

Then she risked her _____ to help free _____ many more _____.

Abraham Lincoln



Abraham Lincoln was the _____th president of the United States. He outlawed the practice of _____.

His nickname was _____.

Slavery and the Civil War



Because the Civil War was fought, today _____

_____ and _____

_____.