

Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877

Topic 1 Content: Abolitionist Movement Notes

Introduction



In this interactivity, learn about several important abolitionist leaders. Hover your cursor over the icons to learn the names of the key contributors in the Abolitionist Movement. Select the icon to learn more about that contributor.

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Topic 1 Content: Abolitionist Movement Notes

William Lloyd Garrison

William Lloyd Garrison

- Called for the immediate emancipation of slaves
- Started his own newspaper, *The Liberator*
- Formed the New England Anti-Slavery Society and the American Anti-Slavery Society

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A portrait of William Lloyd Garrison, an abolitionist. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right of the viewer. The background is dark and indistinct.

One of the most influential white abolitionists was William Lloyd Garrison of Boston, Massachusetts. Garrison believed that slavery violated the principles of Christianity. He called for immediate emancipation of slaves, with no compensation for slave owners. He began a newspaper, *The Liberator*, in order to spread his message. He formed the New England Anti-Slavery Society in 1832 and the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833.

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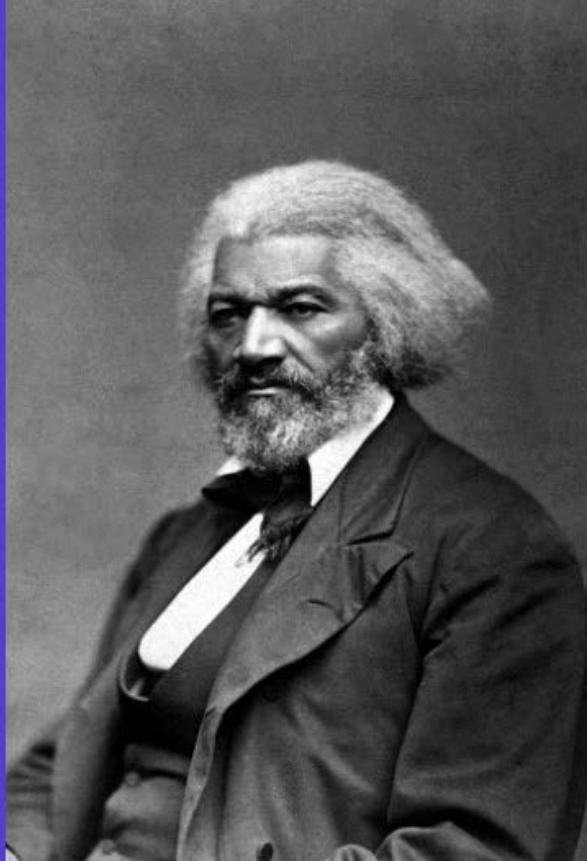
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Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass

- Born into slavery in 1817
- Became a public speaker for the American Anti-Slavery Society
- Started his own newspaper, *The North Star*

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A black and white portrait of Frederick Douglass, an elderly man with a full white beard and hair, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt with a dark bow tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera.

Frederick Douglas was born into slavery in Maryland in 1817. He was taught to read and write by the wife of one of his slave owners, until her husband demanded that she stop. Douglass continued to learn with the assistance of other children in the area. He felt that knowledge was the answer to escape a lifetime of slavery. In 1838, Douglas escaped to New York, using the papers of a free African American man. He became a public speaker for the American Anti-Slavery Society and began his own anti-slavery newspaper, *The North Star*.

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Gabriel Prosser

Gabriel Prosser

- Planned a slave revolt in 1800
- Wanted to take control of Richmond, Virginia
- Motivated and recruited thousands of slaves



Gabriel Prosser planned one of the earliest slave revolts in Richmond, Virginia, in the year 1800. Prosser, a literate blacksmith, was twenty-four years old. With the help of other slaves, Prosser created a plan to take control of Richmond. Prosser motivated and recruited thousands of slaves to help his cause. On the night before the planned attack, information about the attack was discovered by a few slave owners, and Prosser and other slaves fled. Prosser was found in Norfolk and returned to Richmond. He was executed for his plot.

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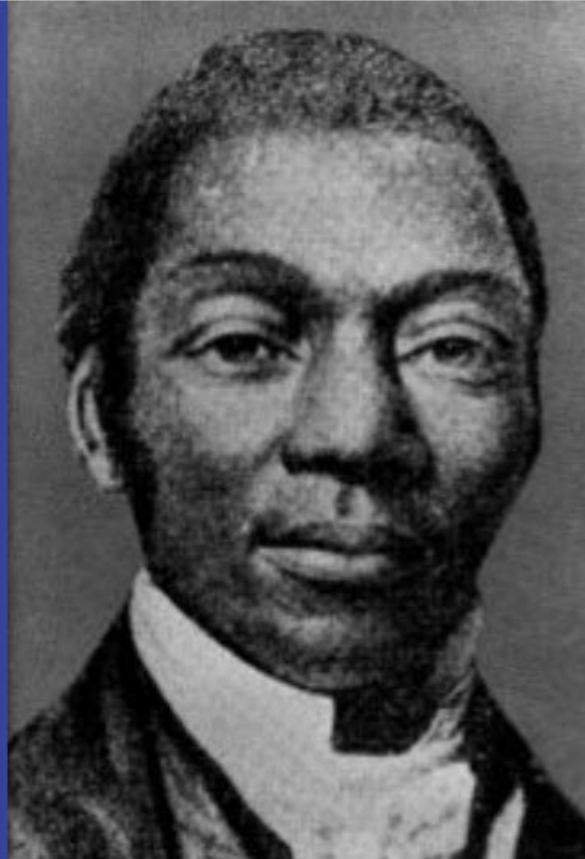
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David Walker

David Walker

- Born free in Wilmington, North Carolina
- A free black who advised blacks to fight for their freedom
- Published *Appeal to Colored Citizens of the World*

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A black and white portrait of David Walker, an African American man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark cravat. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

David Walker was born in Wilmington, North Carolina. His father was a slave, but his mother was a free woman. In accordance with the state law, Walker inherited the status of his mother, so he too was free. He observed the inhumanity of slavery and advised slaves to fight for their freedom, rather than wait for the end of slavery. In 1829, Walker published *Appeal to Colored Citizens of the World*, in which he continued to urge slaves to fight to for their freedom.

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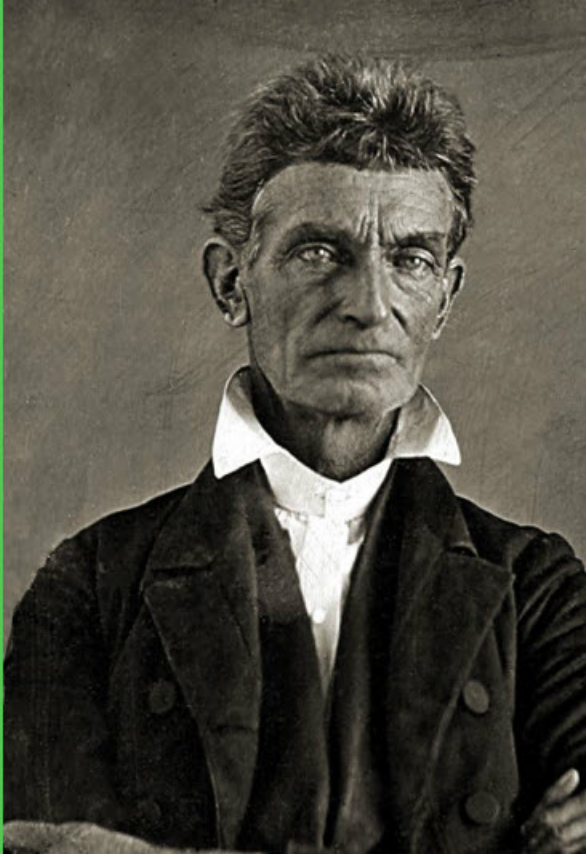
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John Brown

John Brown

- Abolitionist who led a group of men into Harper's Ferry, Virginia in 1859
- Attempted to raid the federal arsenal
- Executed in 1859

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A black and white portrait of John Brown, an elderly man with a serious expression, wearing a dark coat over a white shirt and a dark vest. He has short, dark hair and a prominent nose.

John Brown was an abolitionist who took action in an attempt to end slavery. He led a group of men into Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia) on October 16, 1859. His plan was to raid the federal arsenal located in the area. He planned to gain possession of the weapons there and distribute them to slaves in the area. He hoped to spark an uprising. Brown and his men were overtaken by the local militia and the United States Marines. Brown was executed for treason on December 2, 1859.

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Nat Turner

Nat Turner

- Born into slavery in South Hampton, Virginia in 1800
- Led a slave revolt that killed 60 white Southerners
- 200 slaves killed in response to the revolt



In October 1800, Nat Turner was born into slavery, in Southampton County, Virginia. He believed that it was his mission to lead slaves to freedom. At the age of 31, Turner led a slave revolt in an attack on four plantations, killing 60 white Southerners. As an act of revenge, more than 200 African Americans were killed, many of whom were not involved in the revolt. Turner was able to hide out for several weeks, but was eventually captured and executed.