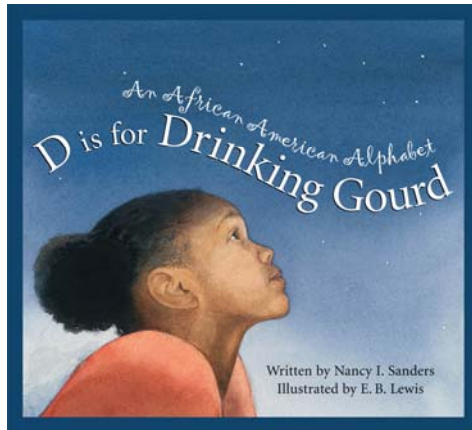


Teacher's Guide



D is for Drinking Gourd An African American Alphabet

Author: Nancy I. Sanders

Illustrator: E.B. Lewis

Guide written by Patricia Pierce

**Portions may be reproduced for use in the classroom
with this express written consent of Sleeping Bear Press**

**Published by
Sleeping Bear Press
310 N. Main St., Suite 300
Chelsea, MI 48118
800-487-2323**

www.sleepingbearpress.com

D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet

BACKGROUND BUILDING

Preview the book cover and illustrations to generate discussion of the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout our history. Use the following graphic organizer to list current background knowledge.

After reading *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet*, complete the remaining sections of the chart.

What I Already Know

What I Learned

New Questions/Topics That Sparked My Interest

D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet



KEY VOCABULARY

abolish – put an end to, get rid of

abolitionist – person who wanted to put an end to slavery

emancipation – setting free from slavery

jubilee – time of rejoicing; celebration

proclamation – an official public announcement

segregate – separate from others, keep apart

integrate – join together, combine, bring together

opposition – action against, resistance, unfriendliness

discrimination – unfair treatment of people on the basis of prejudice

Read the words below and cross out what word or phrase *does not* belong or have a meaning similar to the bold-faced vocabulary word.

1. **abolish** – do away with – keep – stop
2. **abolitionist** – person in favor of slavery – person against slavery
3. **emancipation** – freedom – release – captivity
4. **jubilee** – time of sorrow – celebration – time of rejoicing
5. **proclamation** – announcement – private statement – public statement
6. **segregate** – isolate – separate – join together
7. **integrate** – break up – put together – combine
8. **opposition** – resistance – friendliness – conflict
9. **discrimination** – acceptance – unfairness – prejudice

*D is for Drinking Gourd:
An African American Alphabet*



Vocabulary

Choose a word from the box to complete each sentence.
Write it on the line.

1. It was a day of (rejoicing) _____
when the slaves were granted their freedom.
2. The mob gave (resistance) _____
to the police.
3. Frederick Douglass, (person against slavery),
an _____, spoke about the cruelty
of slavery.
4. Sojourner Truth help to (stop) _____
slavery by giving speeches.
5. Do you think it would be fair to (separate) _____
classes because of race or religion?
6. The (official document that ended slavery), _____
_____ was issued by President Lincoln.
7. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
helps protect people from (unfair treatment) _____.
8. It took courage to be among the first students to (join) _____
into the school system of Little Rock, Arkansas.

VOCABULARY

abolish
abolitionist
Emancipation
jubilee
discrimination
integrate
Proclamation
segregate
opposition



The publication of *The North Star*, an abolitionist newspaper, was an important step in giving African Americans a voice against slavery.

Use the following layout and create your own newspaper focusing on the people, events, and achievements that are showcased in *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet*.

1. With a partner or in a small group decide on a name for your newspaper.

Suggested Names

- The North Star Reporter
- The Drinking Gourd Post
- The Free Press
- United We Stand Press
- The Freedom Tribune

2. Using *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* as your source for possible topics, write articles for each section of the newspaper. See the chart below for suggestions. Not all letter page suggestions need to be included in your newspaper.

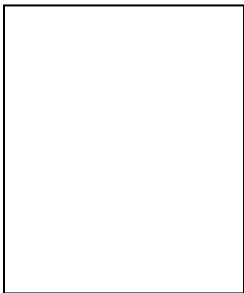
	Letter page in <i>D is for Drinking Gourd</i>
Front page	A, E, L, I
In the News	B, D, G, P, T, U, X
Editorial	F, M, S, V
Lifestyle	K, N, Q, R, Y, Z
Entertainment	H, J, W
Sports Spotlight	C, O

Newspaper Article Writing Tips

- Write a catchy, attention-getting headline.
- Use the five W's and an H in your article.
Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How
- Be an investigative reporter.
Research for more information if needed.
- Use vivid, descriptive language.
- Stick to the facts. The news should be an accurate and impartial reporting of the story the way it happened. Opinions are for the editorial section.
- Enjoy your experience as a newspaper journalist!

Edited By: _____ Date _____

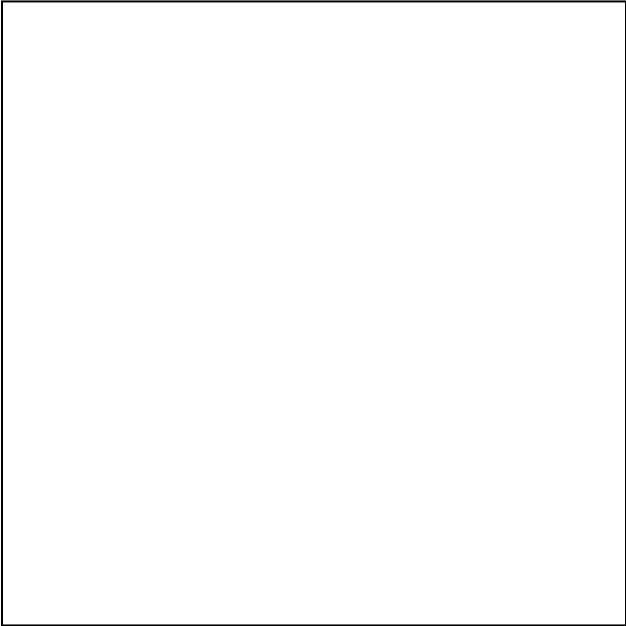
Headline



by
byline



picture caption



picture caption

Upcoming Events

Guest Speaker _____

When _____

Where _____

Editorial

Headline _____

Featured Editorial

*Why is this a problem?
What can be done about it?*

by _____
byline _____

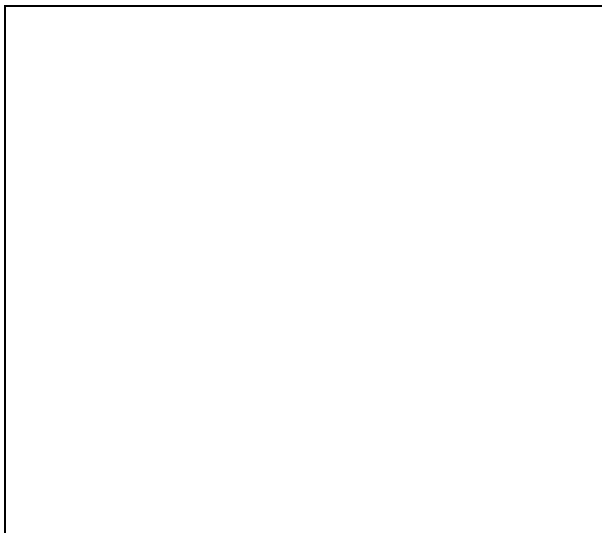
Opinion Poll

*Do you agree or disagree with
the following statement?*

Agree

Disagree

Lifestyle



_____ *picture caption*

Headline _____

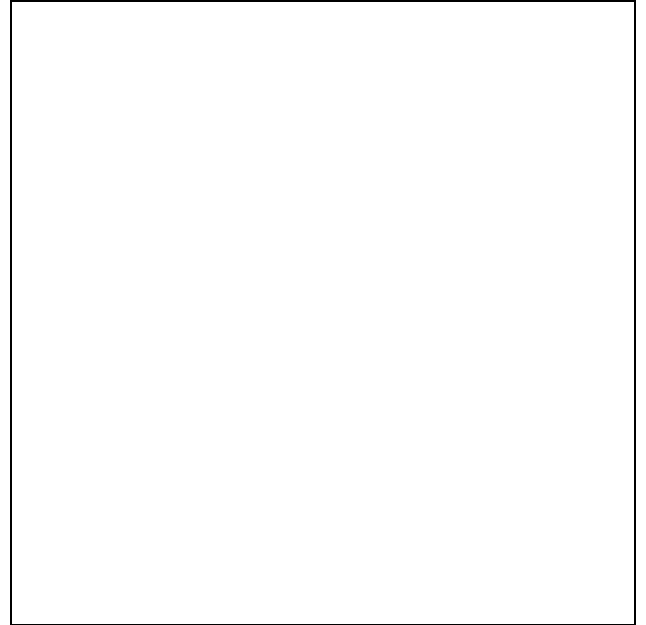
by _____
byline _____

Entertainment

Headline

by _____

byline



picture caption

Sports Spotlight

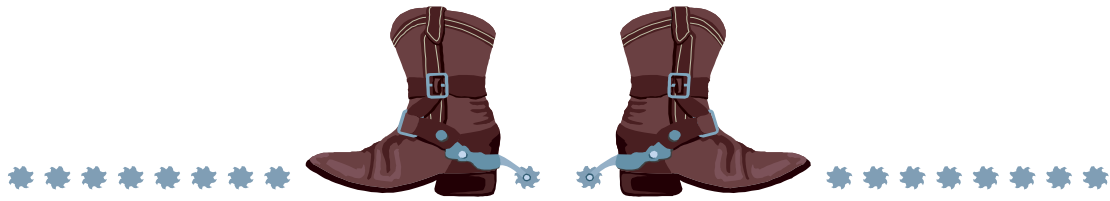


picture caption

Headline

by _____

byline



Howdy partner!

Turn to page C of *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* and round up the wild, Wild West.

List three facts in the frame below.

Following the Drinking Gourd



In the silence and darkness of night, runaway slaves relied on the Underground Railroad for safe passage. The success of the Underground Railroad depended on people being extremely careful and secretive.

Messages were sent through songs using the words in the song as code. Secret signals included a light in the window or a gourd hanging by a door, meaning it was safe to enter a house.

The “conductors” of the Underground Railroad also communicated by means of secret codes or signals. For example, receiving a message stating that two large hams would be arriving, truly meant two adult runaways were on their way and needing a safe place to hide.

Crack the Code

Solve the math problems and use the code to solve the missing word puzzle.

Runaway slaves traveling with “conductors” on the Underground Railroad often wore _____.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Answer

Letter

- 1.) $12 \sim 3 =$ _____
- 2.) $3 \times 3 =$ _____
- 3.) $29 - 10 =$ _____
- 4.) $13 - 6 =$ _____
- 5.) $3 \times 7 =$ _____
- 6.) $45 \sim 5 =$ _____
- 7.) $12 + 7 =$ _____
- 8.) $35 \sim 7 =$ _____
- 9.) $1 \times 19 =$ _____

Ben: Eli, the baby kittens are sleeping right over there.

Narrator: Without delay, Ben then hides and not a moment too soon. Riding up to the barn is a U. S. marshal.

Marshal: (*loud, cranky voice*) I've been tracking a runaway slave, and I think he might have come this way. (*pause*) This barn full of hay would be a good hiding spot. Mind if I check it out?

Narrator 1: Eli is scared and his mind is racing. What should he do? How can he stop the marshal from searching the hay? How can he help Ben escape? Just then, he hears a faint meow.

Eli: I've been searching through this hay all morning, and the only thing I found was some baby kittens.

Marshal: Now, you wouldn't be telling me a lie? There is a big reward for this runaway slave and I plan on getting it.

Eli: Oh no, sir. Here's the kittens right here. You want to pet one? They're real cute.

Narrator 2: Even though Eli was full of fear, he stayed calm and played with the kittens. It was enough to fool the angry marshal.

Marshal: I can't be wasting my time. That slave is probably down by the river and will be long gone if I don't hurry.

Narrator 1: As the marshal raced away, Eli's father returned.

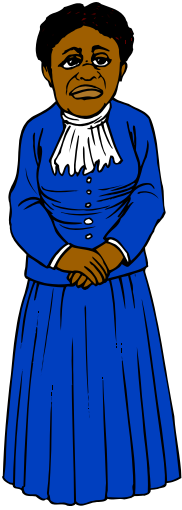
Father: Quick, Ben, come out and hide in the wagon. It's time to go to the next station.

Narrator: Ben hastily crawled out from under the hay. Before climbing in the wagon, he firmly shook Eli's hand.

Ben: You are a fine conductor, Boy. Look up in the dark sky tonight; find the drinking gourd and think of me.

Narrator: Eli watched until his first passenger of the Underground Railroad was out of sight. He would now wait for the next passenger to follow the drinking gourd to his station.

At the beginning of the play, Eli knocks a quilt off the porch railing. Read page Q of *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* to discover the secret signal the quilt may have possibly been sending to Ben.



Who Am I?

Read *D is for Drinking Gourd: An Africa American Alphabet*, then match the description with the correct person.



1. Bill Picket _____
 2. Benjamin "Pap" Singleton _____
 3. Harriet Tubman _____
 4. Nannie Helen Burroughs _____
 5. Langston Hughes _____
 6. Madam C. J. Walker _____
 7. Louis Armstrong _____
 8. George Washington Carver _____
 9. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. _____
 10. Thurgood Marshall _____
- A. Nicknamed Satchmo
Talented jazz trumpeter and singer
 - B. Civil Rights leader
Strong supporter of nonviolent action
 - C. Known as the poet laureate of Harlem
 - D. First African American admitted to the
National Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame
 - E. Nicknamed Moses
Led over 300 slaves to freedom
 - F. First African American justice of the
Supreme Court of the United States
 - G. Encouraged thousands of families to settle
in the Wild West
 - H. Established the National Training School
for Women and Girls in Washington, D. C.
 - I. Invented hair products and beauty creams
 - J. Scientist – invented a variety of products
from sweet potatoes and peanuts



POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet is filled with information and facts about many courageous and highly respected people.

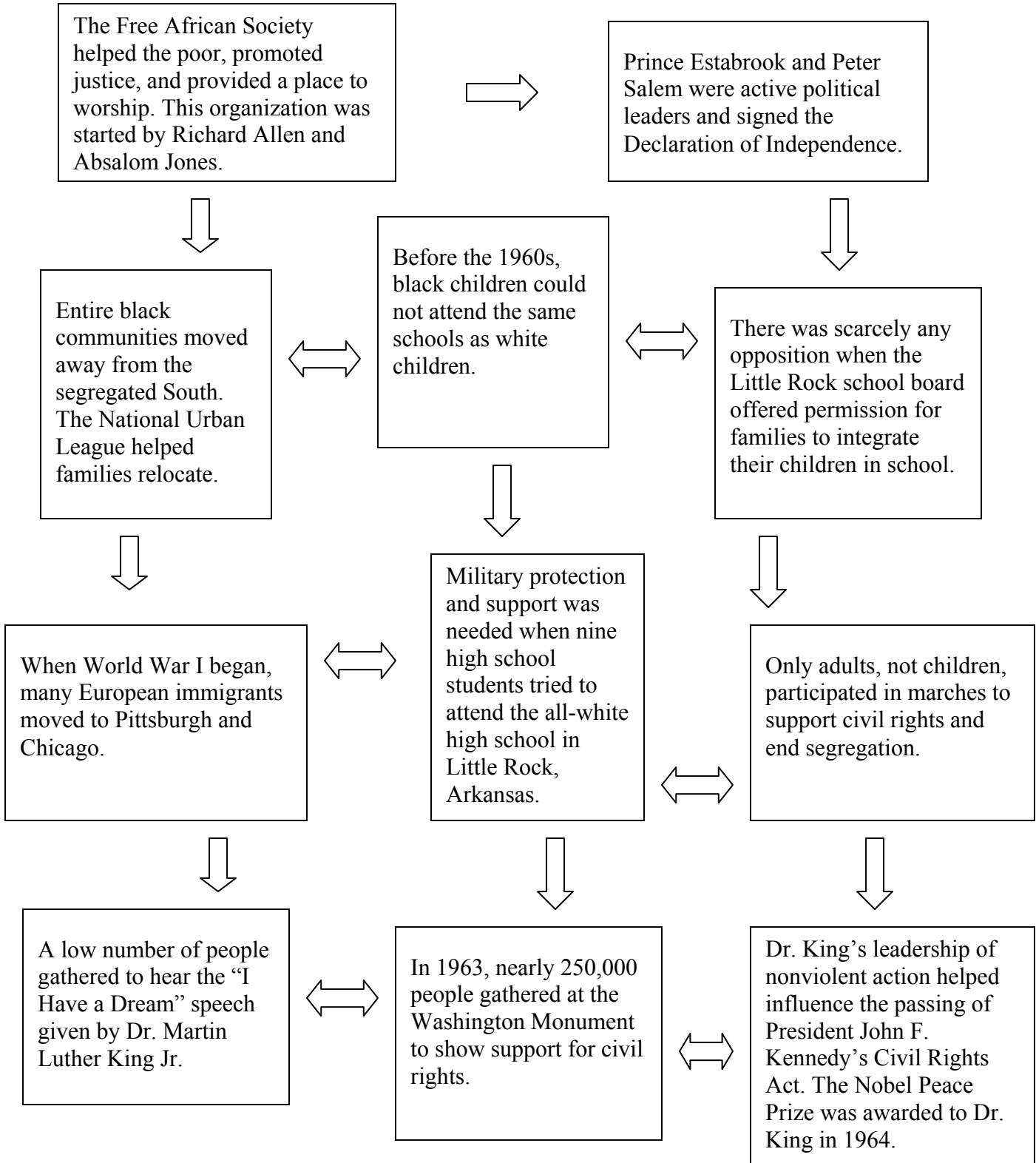
Create a top ten list of people presented in the book you believe are positive role models. Include in your listing the reason why each person was chosen.



Positive Role Model	Reason
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF EQUAL RIGHTS

Find the path to equal rights by following the trail of **true** sentences. Refer to *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* to confirm the facts.



DISCRIMINATION



Pick an Apple Activity

Try the following activity to help students understand that each person is unique, yet alike in many ways.

Materials

A basket filled with an apple for each student

Directions

1. Pass the basket and allow each student to pick an apple.
2. After all students have an apple, direct students to return their apple.
3. When all apples have been returned, gently mix up the apples.
4. Instruct students to return to the basket and pick out their original apple!
(The majority of students will be uncertain.)
5. Repeat the activity, but now instruct students to carefully examine their apple.
They will notice differences, such as a shorter stem or a mark on the apple's skin.
This time after students return their apples, it will be easier to identify their apple.
6. Allow students to clean and eat their apple as they discuss the activity.

Discussion Questions

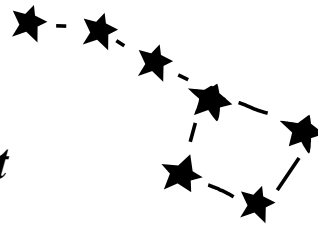
1. Do we overlook or fail to notice the unique and special characteristics of people?
2. Do we expect everyone to be the same – to look and act the same?
3. In what ways are the apples alike and different?
4. In what ways are people alike and different?
5. Discuss the different cultural habits of people and the importance of these cultural differences to be recognized, appreciated, and respected.
6. Discuss the Golden Rule – Do unto others as you want done unto you.

D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Quilt

Complete this cozy quilt after reading *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* by completing each sentence and drawing an illustration or design for each block.

I want to learn more about ...	Page ____ made me feel ...	I was surprised to learn that ...	Page ____ made me think about ...
One person that was interesting to read about was ...			I can relate to page ____ because
Page ____ sparked my interest about ...			One person I will recommend this book to is ...
	My Favorite Page		
My favorite illustration is on page ____	One event that was interesting to read about was ...	If I could travel back in time, I'd like to meet ...	My favorite poem is for the letter ____

*D is for Drinking Gourd:
An African American Alphabet*



ABOLITIONIST
CIVIL WAR
JUBILEE
NAACP

SLAVERY
FREEDOM
KWANZAA
JAZZ

EMANCIPATION
JUNETEENTH
EQUAL RIGHTS
EXCODUSTERS

J	C	I	V	I	L	W	A	R	J	U
E	X	C	O	D	U	S	T	E	R	S
K	Z	F	R	P	J	E	N	A	M	E
C	M	N	C	E	M	I	Q	R	T	M
N	I	A	Q	M	S	L	C	S	U	J
J	A	B	E	A	J	U	I	J	Q	U
N	U	Z	F	N	A	N	N	E	X	N
J	X	I	C	C	O	E	M	I	O	E
F	M	E	Q	I	E	Q	U	J	L	T
E	C	I	L	P	Q	C	T	U	S	E
Q	R	O	X	A	N	A	X	R	I	E
N	B	J	N	T	P	N	F	C	Z	N
A	I	E	U	I	E	R	S	I	Z	T
R	C	I	C	O	F	B	L	Z	O	H
F	L	J	U	N	U	R	A	E	X	N
S	A	F	Q	J	C	J	V	C	J	A
F	R	E	E	D	O	M	E	I	U	C
C	I	M	N	A	X	I	R	M	B	A
J	A	Z	M	N	S	L	Y	E	P	N
F	R	J	F	R	E	Q	U	C	I	V
E	Q	U	A	L	R	I	G	H	T	S

Answer Key

Vocabulary

1. **abolish** – do away with – ~~keep~~ – stop
2. **abolitionist** – ~~person in favor of slavery~~ – person against slavery
3. **emancipation** – freedom – release – ~~captivity~~
4. **jubilee** – ~~time of sorrow~~ – celebration – time of rejoicing
5. **proclamation** – announcement – ~~private statement~~ – public statement
6. **segregate** – isolate – separate – ~~join together~~
7. **integrate** – ~~break up~~ – put together – combine
8. **opposition** – resistance – ~~friendliness~~ – conflict
9. **discrimination** – ~~acceptance~~ – unfairness - prejudice

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1. jubilee | 2. opposition | 3. abolitionist |
| 4. abolish | 5. segregate | 6. Emancipation Proclamation |
| 7. discrimination | 8. integrate | |

Following the Drinking Gourd

- 1.) 4 D 2.) 9 I 3.) 19 S 4.) 7 G 5.) 21 U
6.) 9 I 7.) 19 S 8.) 5 E 9.) 19 S

Runaway slaves traveling with “conductors” on the Underground Railroad often wore disguises.

Who Am I?

1. D 2. G 3. E 4. H 5. C 6. I 7. A 8. J 9. B 10. F

Follow the Trail of Equal Rights

True sentences are the following:

1. The Free African Society helped the poor, promoted justice, and provided a place to worship. This organization was started by Richard Allen and Absalom Jones.
2. Entire black communities moved away from the segregated South. The National Urban League helped families relocate.
3. Before the 1960s, black children could not attend the same schools as white children.
4. Military protection and support was needed when nine high school students tried to attend the all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.
5. In 1963, nearly 250,000 people gathered at the Washington Monument to show support for civil rights.
6. Dr. King’s leadership of nonviolent action helped influence the passing of President John F. Kennedy’s Civil Rights Act. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. King in 1964.

Crossword Puzzle

1. First fruits
2. Sojourner Truth
3. Juneteenth
4. Harriet Tubman
5. Thurgood Marshall
6. Nat Love
7. Louis Armstrong

J	C	I	V	I	L	W	A	R	J	U
E	X	C	O	D	U	S	T	E	R	S
K	Z	F	R	P	J	E	N	A	M	E
C	M	N	C	E	M	I	Q	R	T	M
N	I	A	Q	M	S	L	C	S	U	J
J	A	B	E	A	J	U	I	J	Q	U
N	U	Z	F	N	A	N	N	E	X	N
J	X	I	C	C	O	E	M	I	O	E
F	M	E	Q	I	E	Q	U	J	L	T
E	C	I	L	P	Q	C	T	U	S	E
Q	R	O	X	A	N	A	X	R	I	E
N	B	J	N	T	P	N	F	C	Z	N
A	I	E	U	I	E	R	S	I	Z	T
R	C	I	C	O	F	B	L	Z	O	H
F	L	J	U	N	U	R	A	E	X	N
S	A	F	Q	J	C	J	V	C	J	A
F	R	E	E	D	O	M	E	I	U	C
C	I	M	N	A	X	I	R	M	B	A
J	A	Z	M	N	S	L	Y	E	P	N
F	R	J	F	R	E	Q	U	C	I	V
E	Q	U	A	L	R	I	G	H	T	S