

Lesson 2, Worksheet 1

Gradual Emancipation Timeline

1773

Enslaved people in Massachusetts unsuccessfully petitioned the government for their freedom.

1775

A group of activists, most of them Quakers, organized the first abolition society, the Pennsylvania Abolition Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1777

Vermont is the first of the thirteen colonies to grant immediate emancipation as well as the right to vote to all adult males.

1780

Pennsylvania begins gradual emancipation.

1783

Massachusetts grants immediate emancipation and the right to vote to African-American men who pay taxes.

1784

Rhode Island and Connecticut pass gradual emancipation laws.

1799

New York passes the Gradual Emancipation Act, which states that children born to enslaved parents would be emancipated at the age of 25 if female and 28 if male. There was no emancipation date set for those born before 1799.

1804

New Jersey adopts a gradual emancipation act.

1817

New York passes "An Act Relative to Slaves and Servants," which states that enslaved men and women born before July 4, 1799, would be free on July 4, 1827.