

Lesson 4, Worksheet 1

Expert Topic Sheet - Running Away

Background

A risky road to freedom, running away represented one of the everyday acts enslaved people did in order to resist their own bondage. Slaveholders regularly placed advertisements for the capture of runaways in local newspapers. Advertisements were often placed in the *Long Island Star*, Brooklyn's earliest newspaper.

Example

On November 4, 1778, an African-American male who was enslaved to a widow named Henderickie Lott ran away to Manhattan. He left with three coats, eight shirts, four pairs of pants, and stockings. A reward was offered for his return. It is not known whether he successfully built a new life as a free person or was captured and re-enslaved.

Discussion questions

- What are the pros of running away?
- What are the cons of running away?