

**Historical African American Experiences at Cherry Hill Collection**  
*4-8 Teaching Unit*



**Lesson 1: My Right to Freedom:**  
**Slavery at Cherry Hill in Albany, N.Y.**  
**1787-1827**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student observations about “Boy of the Van Rensselaer Family”**

Directions:

1. Look at the the painting “Boy of the Van Rensselaer Family”
2. What do you see in this painting? Record your observations in the space below.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Write down 1 question you have about the painting.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. **Brainstorm:** What do you know about Slavery?

## Lesson 1: My Right to Freedom

## Part A: Introduction



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Class observations “Boy of the Van Rensselaer Family”**

**Directions: Record class observations in the space below.**



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions: Define the following vocabulary words use in the lesson.**

**agricultural-**

**bill of sale-**

**citizen-**

**colonists-**

**enslaved-**

**laborer-**

**merchant-**

**primary source-**

**trade-**





## Lesson 1: My Right to Freedom

## Part B: Activity 1b

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Worksheet 1b

Directions: Look at the picture showing what Church and Market Streets in Albany looked like in 1805. Read about Slavery in the city of Albany. Then, answer the questions below:

1. Write one thing you notice about the picture:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. About how many enslaved people lived in a household in the city of Albany?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Compare & Contrast life on a farm with life in the city for people who were enslaved:
  - a. How was life similar?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How was life different?



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## Part B: Activities 2 a-c

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Worksheet 2

Directions: Do the following activities, and answer the questions for Activities 2a, b & c

A. Look at the drawing of Albany's Market Street in 1805. Read about the market in the city of Albany and answer questions below.

1. Write one thing you notice about the picture.

**Brainstorm:** What things do you think were traded in the Albany market?

B. Look at *Return of the Experiment*, by L.F. Tantillo, 1994. This is an artist's idea of what Albany's port may have looked like during the late 1700s. Read the description and answer questions below.

2. List two things that were transported on Philip Van Rensselaer's sloops.

C. Look at the drawing of New York City market and port in 1730. Read the description of how Philip Van Rensselaer was involved in the Slave Trade.

3. Write down one way that Philip Van Rensselaer participated in the Slave Trade.

**Brainstorm:** What kind of work do you think enslaved people did on the sloops?



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## Part B: Activity 3 a & b

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Worksheet 3

Directions: Do the following activities, and answer the questions for Activities 3 a & b

A. Look at the photograph of historical reenactors. Read the description about Andrew.

1. What was Andrew's job?

**Brainstorm question:** Why do you think Andrew's job was important?

B. Look at the *bill of sale* for Andrew. Read the selection from the document.

2. What was John Brown's job?

3. What was Philip Van Rensselaer's job?

**Brainstorm Question:** How do you think Andrew learned to be a cooper?





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## Part B: Activity 4 a & b

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Worksheet 4

Directions: Do the following activities, and answer the questions for Activities 4 a & b

A. Look at Maria Van Rensselaer's ledger. Read the description and transcription

1. Maria write the first entry in the ledger in the year \_\_\_\_\_. That was \_\_\_\_\_ years ago.

*Show your math here:*

2. What kinds of things did the Van Rensselaers record in their ledger?

**Brainstorm question:** What important events would you record in your ledger for people to discover?

B. Look at the page in Maria Van Rensselaer's ledger. Read the description and transcription.

3. Choose one date, and record what happened on that date.

4. Write one question you have about this page in the ledger.

**Brainstorm question:** What surprises you about the entries on this page?



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**Part B: Activity 5**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Worksheet 5**

**Directions:** Look at the newspaper notice. Read the description and transcription

1. Record 2 facts about Martineek and Cato.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Where did their enslaver, Philip Van Rensselaer, think they went?

**Brainstorm:**

**Draw** a picture of what they might have seen on the river.

OR

**List** things they might have seen on the river.



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## Part C: Activity 6

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Worksheet 6

Directions: Read the description about the Cherry Hill Farm. Look at the drawing.

1. **Find** the orchard, *north* of the house. (Hint: Use the compass rose, located in the top left corner of the drawing.)
2. **Draw** what the orchard looks like on the map in the space below:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. **Write** one thing that the Van Rensselaers, servants, and enslaved people did together.

**Brainstorm:** What other kinds of work do you think free servants and enslaved people did on the Cherry Hill farm?



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## Part C: Activities 7a

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Worksheet 7a

Directions: Look at the photograph of the kitchen fireplace. Read the description.

1. Dinah Jackson was born around the year \_\_\_\_\_, at the time of the American \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She was about \_\_\_\_\_ years old when Slavery ended in New York State on July 4, 1827.

### Brainstorm:

What do you think Dinah Jackson's bedroom was like?

3. **Draw** a picture of what you think her room looked like in the space below.



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## Part C: Activity 7b

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Worksheet 7b

Directions: Look at the photograph of Dinah Jackson's room. Read the description.

1. **List** four words that describe this room.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. **Think**...did she have privacy? Why or why not?

**Brainstorm:** What questions do you have about Dinah Jackson's life?



## Lesson 1: My Right to Freedom

## Part C: Activity 8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Worksheet 8

Directions: Look at the photograph of Historic Cherry Hill room. Read the description.  
Explore the house and do the activities below.

1. **Write** the most interesting thing you saw during the virtual tour of Cherry Hill, and why it was interesting.

OR **Draw** a scene or object from Cherry Hill in the space below.

**Brainstorm:** What do you want to know more about?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

***Essential Question:*** What do you think life was like for people- including children- who were enslaved at Cherry Hill?

Directions: Record class answers in the space below.