

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

Name _____ Date _____

Use this worksheet with each primary source. Not all questions will apply to every document.

1. What type of document is this? _____
2. What is the general subject matter of this document? _____

3. What is the date of the document? _____
4. Who is the author/creator of the document? _____
5. What was this person's connection to the subject matter? Was this person neutral, or did he/she have opinions or interests that might have influenced what was written?

6. Who was the intended audience for the document? Was it meant to be public or private?

7. When was the information in the document recorded—during the event, directly afterward or much later?

8. Was the intent of the author to inform or persuade? How do you know?

9. List at least two facts you find in this document.

Primary Sources Provide Context for the Underground Railroad

10. Can you find an example of opinion in the document? If so, list it.

11. Can you find examples of biased language in the document? If so, write them here.

12. List two things the document tells you about life and society at the time it was written.

13. Why do you think this document was created?

14. Why is this document important?

15. What questions does it raise or leave unanswered?

16. Make a list of words or expressions you do not understand, and then look to other sources for definitions or explanations.

