### IS VERMONT TRULY ABOLITIONIST?

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| **Rationale, Learning Targets** | District Essential Understanding:  
  ● Knowing our history helps inform our understanding of the world around us | Our district offers flexibility and autonomy in terms of what we teach. We are asked to include essential understandings agreed upon by teachers of the district, and certain content bands so as not to create large gaps in instruction between grade levels and schools. This Essential Understanding in our district’s KUD fits this unit. |
| **Black Historically Conscious Principles** | Learning targets:  
  ● Claim, Evidence, Reasoning | The learning targets selected makes sense to the content we are considering and our guiding question. |
| | Black Historical Consciousness Principles:  
  ● Power and Oppression  
  ● Black Agency, Resistance and Perseverance | The Black Historically Conscious Principles focus on the power and oppression of Black Americans as they combat the conditions of slavery through the abolitionist movement in the 19th century and the racism they experience in Vermont in the 21st century. Several primary sources highlight both these principles. |
| **Essential Questions** | Is Vermont truly abolitionist?  
  ● What does Vermont do to support African Americans?  
  ● What more does Vermont need to do to support African Americans? | Each of these questions will help to keep the conversation and discussion focused on steps that our state has accomplished in support of black Vermonter, the reality of Black Vermonters today and what we need to do next. |
| **Unit Opener** | Reminder about norms  
  Reminder about language  
  ● Enslaved person, not slave  
  ● Enslaver, not master  
  ● Black Americans or Black Vermonters, not negro  
  We reject the use of racially harmful language | Norms help to remind adults and students alike about the impact of language; it can be confusing for students when primary sources refer to language acceptable in an historic time period. I think there is more to add to this list - would welcome feedback here :) |
| | Something that is challenging for students (and adults frankly) is to hold space for “both/and.” If Vermont was the first state to abolish slavery 1777, why did we just vote on changing the language for Proposition 2 in 2022? Why does Vermont remain to be one of the whitest states |