

### **Resource Sheet #03**

**Source:** Thomas Jefferson in the *Declaration of Independence, 1776*

*“... We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...”*

#### **Document Analysis:**

1. In your opinion, who is Thomas Jefferson referring to in the Declaration of Independence when using the term “all men?”
2. According to Jefferson, who provided the people with their inalienable rights?
3. Does Jefferson mention slavery at all in this document? In what context?
4. How could this document be used to argue that Jefferson supported slavery?
5. How could this document be used to argue that Jefferson opposed slavery?

## Resource Sheet #04

Source: Slave Advertisement, *Virginia Gazette* (Williamsburg), September 14, 1769



**R**UN away from the subscriber in *Albemarle*, a Mulatto slave called *Sandy*, about 35 years of age, his stature is rather low, inclining to corpulence, and his complexion light; he is a shoemaker by trade, in which he uses his left hand principally, can do coarse carpenters work, and is something of a horse jockey; he is greatly addicted to drink, and when drunk is insolent and disorderly, in his conversation he swears much, and in his behaviour is artful and knavish. He took with him a white horse, much scarred with traces, of which it is expected he will endeavour to dispose; he also carried his shoemakers tools, and will probably endeavour to get employment that way. Whoever conveys the said slave to me, in *Albemarle*, shall have 40 s. reward, if taken up within the county, 4 l. if elsewhere within the colony, and 10 l. if in any other colony, from  
**THOMAS JEFFERSON.**

### Document Analysis:

1. What kind of document is this? Is it a primary or secondary source? What evidence provided convinces you of that?
2. What is its purpose? What is the author trying to say in the document?
3. Analyze the reward language near the end of the document. What is Jefferson trying say here, in simple terms?
4. According to the document, how would you describe the subject of the notice?
5. Does this document help to answer the question, "Where Did Thomas Jefferson Stand on the Issue of Slavery?"

## Resource Sheet #05

**Source:** A Letter From Thomas Jefferson to John Holmes,  
Discussing slavery and the Missouri question.  
Monticello, 22 April 1820

"This momentous question, like a fire bell in the night, awakened and filled one with terror, I considered it at once as the knell of the Union. It is hushed indeed for the moment. But this is a reprieve only, not a final sentence . . . I can say with conscious truth that there is not a man on earth who would sacrifice more than I would, to relieve us from this heavy reproach, in any practicable way. The cession of that kind of property, for so it is misnamed, is a bagatelle which would not cost me in a second thought, if, in that way, a general emancipation and expatriation could be effected: and, gradually, and with due sacrifices, I think it might be. But, as it is, we have the wolf by the ears, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other...Of one thing I am certain, that as the passage of slaves from one state to another would not make a slave of a single human being who would not be so without it, so their diffusion over a greater surface would make them individually happier and proportionally facilitate the accomplishment of their emancipation..."

### Document Analysis:

1. What does Jefferson consider the status of slaves to be? Are they considered to be people?
2. Is Jefferson calling for the restriction or expansion of slavery into new territories? Explain your answer.
3. Describe how Jefferson feels about the future of the slave business.
4. Many historians argue that this passage may be the best source in this argument because of its evidence of conflict in the mind of Jefferson. Describe how the letter may argue that Jefferson both supported slavery and opposed it at the same time.

## Resource Sheet #06

**Source:** An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, July 13, 1787. Courtesy, The Library of Congress.

“...Article. 6. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the resolutions of the 23rd of April, 1784, relative to the subject of this ordinance, be, and the same are hereby repealed and declared null and void.

Done by the United States, in Congress assembled, the 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1787, and of their sovereignty and independence the twelfth.

### Document Analysis:

1. What does Article 6 state about slavery in the territory?
2. How does Article 6 of the Northwest Ordinance change what was said in 1784?
3. How old is the United States of America, according to Article 6?
4. How does Article 6 address the issue of fugitive slaves?
5. How does this document help to answer the question, “Where Did Thomas Jefferson stand on the Issue of Slavery?”