

Activity 9

Visit the African Meeting House



Next door to the Abiel Smith School at 8 Smith Court is the African Meeting House. This important building served as the center of the free African American community in Boston. Built in 1806, this building was used as a church, a schoolhouse, and as a gathering place for the abolitionists. Many significant leaders including Frederick Douglass, Maria Stewart, and William Lloyd Garrison spoke at the African Meeting House. They were speaking out for freedom and equality for everyone.

Pretend you are an abolitionist speaking at the African Meeting House. It is 1851. Slavery is still happening throughout the country, the Boston schools are still segregated, and the Fugitive Slave Law is being enforced here in your home city. You have been asked to speak about freedom.

What Does Freedom Mean To Me?

A Speech by _____