



Contribution Resolution



INSTRUCTIONS



Lewis and Harriet Hayden relied on compassion of others in their community to escape enslavement. They trusted strangers whose homes were a part of the Underground Railroad to direct them to safe locations in Boston. After gaining their freedom, they helped others achieve their own. What are some things you can do to help your community today?

- 1. Consider their story.** To learn more about their story, watch [this video](#).
- 2. Who do you want to help?** Just like Lewis and Harriet protected those escaping enslavement, you have the ability to help others as well. Take some time to think about people in your life who you would like to help. Discuss with a partner or write them down in your notebook. Make a list of ten people.
- 3. What can you do?** Make a list of ten things that you're good at. This can be *anything* that you enjoy doing or skills that you have. Write down your list of any ten skills on a piece of paper or in a notebook.

Time: 30 minutes - 1 hour +

Materials: Paper, writing utensils, drawing supplies, online video (link below)

- 4. Mix and match.** Sometimes, great ideas come from unexpected combinations. Looking at your two lists, try random combinations of skills and people. What inventive, new, or creative ideas can you imagine might help your community? Try out a few different mashups and see if there's a great idea you would like to commit to. Write down your best idea.
- 5. Make a pledge.** At the top of a new blank paper, write "I pledge to" and finish the sentence with your new idea. You can include a drawing to help your idea come to life. On the bottom of the page, sign your name to complete your pledge.
- 6. Make it happen.** Decorate your pledge and hang it in a special place where it will remind you of your pledge to help others in your community.



LEARN MORE

You can learn more about Lewis and Harriet Hayden by visiting their home in Beacon Hill that is part of the Black Heritage Trail. You can also access the trail virtually [here](#). You can learn more about the Haydens and their home [here](#).

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- How would you describe Lewis and Harriet Hayden? In what ways would you like to be more like them?
- What are some of the ways that other people in **your community** have helped you?
- How does it feel to help others in your community?

