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December 26, 1848: Ellen and William Craft Escape Slavery  
Daily Activity

**Introduction:**

The daily activities created for each of the *Today in Georgia History* segments are designed to meet the Georgia Performance Standards for Reading Across the Curriculum, and Grade Eight: Georgia Studies. For each date, educators can choose from three optional activities differentiated for various levels of student ability. Each activity focuses on engaging the student in context specific vocabulary and improving the student’s ability to communicate about historical topics.

One suggestion is to use the *Today in Georgia History* video segments and daily activities as a “bell ringer” at the beginning of each class period. Using the same activity daily provides consistency and structure for the students and may help teachers utilize the first 15-20 minutes of class more effectively.

**Optional Activities:**

**Level 1:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a complete sentence for each of the vocabulary terms. Student created sentences should reflect the meaning of the word based on the context of the video segment. Have students share a sampling of sentences as a way to check for understanding.

**Level 2:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list for that day’s segment before watching the video and have them guess the meaning of each word based on their previous knowledge. The teacher may choose to let the students work alone or in groups. After watching the video, have the students revise their definitions to better reflect the meaning of the words based on the context of the video. As a final step, have the students compare and contrast their definitions to their textbook, dictionary or other teacher provided materials definitions.

**Level 3:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a five sentence paragraph based on the provided writing prompts.

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## Vocabulary/Writing Prompts:

### Vocabulary Terms

Freedom  
Memoir  
Devised  
Daring  
Trousers  
Heartfelt  
Gratitude  
Bounty

### Writing Prompts

1. What would you be willing to risk to have freedom? In a five-sentence paragraph summarize the many dangers Ellen and William Craft faced in their escape to freedom, and then discuss what dangers you would be willing to face for freedom.
2. Ellen and William Craft were hiding in plain sight as they escaped to freedom. In a five-sentence paragraph compare and contrast the Craft's escape from slavery to other methods you have heard of such as the Underground Railroad, Frederick Douglas, or Henry Brown.
3. What is the point of writing a memoir? Are memoirs written for personal fulfillment, or do they have higher purposes? In a five-sentence paragraph list and explain two reasons why Ellen and William Craft may have thought it important to write their memoir. Use the title *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom* to help you think of possible reasons.

## Related Georgia Performance Standards:

### Reading Across the Curriculum (Grades 6-12)

#### SSRC1 Students will enhance reading in all curriculum areas by:

- c. Building vocabulary knowledge
  - Demonstrate an understanding of contextual vocabulary in various subjects.
  - Use content vocabulary in writing and speaking.
  - Explore understanding of new words found in subject area texts.
- d. Establishing context
  - Explore life experiences related to subject area content.
  - Discuss in both writing and speaking how certain words are subject area related.

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- Determine strategies for finding content and contextual meaning for unknown words.

### **Grade 8 Georgia Studies**

**SS8H6 The student will analyze the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia.**

- Explain the importance of key issues and events that led to the Civil War; include slavery, states' rights, nullification, Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850 and the Georgia Platform, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Dred Scott case, election of 1860, the debate over secession in Georgia, and the role of Alexander Stephens.
- State the importance of key events of the Civil War; include Antietam, the Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, the Union blockade of Georgia's coast, Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, Sherman's March to the Sea, and Andersonville.
- Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia and other southern states, emphasizing Freedmen's Bureau; sharecropping and tenant farming; Reconstruction plans; 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the constitution; Henry McNeal Turner and black legislators; and the Ku Klux Klan.

### **Grade 5 United States Since 1860**

**SS5H1 The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the Civil War.**

- Identify Uncle Tom's Cabin and John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, and explain how each of these events was related to the Civil War.
- Discuss how the issues of states' rights and slavery increased tensions between the North and South.
- Identify major battles and campaigns: Fort Sumter, Gettysburg, the Atlanta Campaign, Sherman's March to the Sea, and Appomattox Court House.
- Describe the roles of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Jefferson Davis, and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.
- Describe the effects of war on the North and South.