

## The Abolition of Slavery in Vermont

Vermont is renowned for being the first state in America to abolish slavery, in its 1777 Constitution. This view is widely held by the public and scholars alike. We will read two primary sources to consider the questions: Did Vermont abolish slavery in 1777? Did slavery cease to exist in Vermont after 1777?

Source (date, author, audience)

## Vermont Constitution (1777)

That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable Rights, among which are the enjoyment and depending Life and Liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety. Therefore, no male person, born in this country, or brought from over sea, ought to be holden by Law to serve any person as a Servant, Slave or Apprentice, after he arrives to the age of twenty-one years, nor female in like manner, after she arrives to the age of eighteen years, unless they are bound by their own consent after they arrive at such age, or bound by Law for Payment of Debts, Damages, Fines, Costs, or the like.

Key Words and Phrases:

Summary

