

# EDUCATORS' GUIDE

## “THE EMANCIPATOR”



### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- When and where does the story take place?
- Who is Frames?
- What was The Emancipator?
- What is the story's central conflict?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In thinking about Elihu Embree's legacy, how does his personal life affect how you view his professional accomplishments? Does one fact matter more than the other?
- Who do you empathize with in the story?
- How does the storyteller portray Elihu Embree's relationship with his slaves?
- The process for creating historical markers varies from state to state. Why does it matter who writes the text on these plaques?

### ACTIVITY

Remind students of the text on the historic marker that discusses Elihu Embree:

#### FIRST ABOLITION PUBLICATIONS

On this site, in 1819–1820, were published *The Manumission Intelligencer* and *The Emancipator*. Edited and published by Elihu Embree and printed by Jacob Howard, these were the first periodicals in the United States devoted exclusively to the abolition of human slavery.

Ask students to write text for a new marker that includes information they learned from the story. It should be about the same length as the original text — under 50 words.

In small groups or as a class, ask students to share their texts and their opinions of the rewrites. Then discuss any challenges they encountered during the exercise.

### RESOURCES

- [The Emancipator](#)  
Explore Embree's publication as a primary source, available in full online.
- [“He Published the First Abolitionist Newspaper in America. He Was Also an Enslaver.”](#)  
Jonesborough-based historian Anne G'Fellers Mason breaks down Embree's complex and self-contradictory story.
- [“Why Historical Markers Matter”](#)  
Smithsonian Magazine takes a close look at how historical markers are created in the United States.
- [“Nancy: The Woman Who Inspired ‘The Emancipator’”](#)  
Anne G'Fellers Mason wrote a play to honor Nancy, one of the people who was enslaved by Embree. This article delves into Nancy's contribution to the history of abolitionism.