

Abolitionist primary sources

Directions: Please observe the following visual and written sources. Then, respond to the questions beneath each one providing good detail.

Primary source #1: "Am I not a man and a brother?" (1837)



1. What are 2 observations and one inference you can make from the above image?

2. Why do you think that a specific question is asked in the image?

(turn over)

Document #2- Jan 1, 1831 excerpt from *The Liberator* newspaper (published by William Lloyd Garrison)

"I am aware, that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as un-compromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation [avoiding extremes]. No! no! Tell a man whose house is on fire, to give a moderate alarm;... tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen; – but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. **I am in earnest- I will not equivocate- I will not excuse- I will not retreat a single inch- AND I WILL BE HEARD.**"

1. What is the purpose of Garrison's statement above? What is he seeking to do?

2. Why does Garrison choose to use a metaphor of **fire** in his statement?

Document #3- Excerpt from "An Address to the Colored People of the United States" (by Frederick Douglass, Sept 29, 1848)

"...Attend anti-slavery meetings, show that you are interested in the subject, that you hate slavery, and love those who are laboring for its overthrow.–Act with white Abolition societies wherever you can, and where you cannot, get up societies among yourselves, but without exclusiveness...It is easy to see that the means which have been used to destroy us, must be used to save us. The press must be used in our behalf: aye! we must use it ourselves; we must take and read newspapers; we must read books, improve our minds, and put to silence and to shame, our opposers..."

1. Using textual evidence, name 2 activities that Douglass calls other African Americans to be involved in.

2. Why do you think that Douglass would choose the specific activities above for African-Americans to be involved in?
