

Clara Brown was born a slave. In 1835, she and her family were **auctioned** off to different owners. Clara was sold to George Brown. Her husband and son were bought by slave traders. Her daughter Eliza was sold to another slave owner. Clara lost touch with all of her family.

1. Who is this passage about? _____
2. Is this article fiction or nonfiction? _____
3. What sound does the **ti** in **auctioned** make? _____
4. How is your life similar or different from Clara Brown's life? _____

Day 1

The 1850 census showed that about 4 million African Americans were living in the United States. Only 400,000 of these African Americans were free. Free African Americans had to obey laws established for them. They were not allowed to socialize with slaves. They also could not hold meetings.

1. What is the main idea of this paragraph? _____
2. What word has the **s** sound at the beginning, middle, and end? _____
3. Why were free African Americans not able to socialize with slaves? _____
4. Why did the author include this paragraph in a biography about Clara Brown? _____

Day 2

Clara became free in 1857. African Americans had to carry freedom papers at all times to prove that they were not runaway slaves. Clara took a job as a cook on a wagon train heading to Colorado. She hoped she would find her daughter Eliza there.

1. What is the root of the word **freedom**? _____
2. Why did free African Americans have to carry freedom papers? _____
3. Why did Clara take a job as a cook on a wagon train? _____
4. Why did she decide to go to Colorado? _____

Day 3

In Colorado, Clara started a laundry business. She charged 50 cents a shirt. She did very well with her business. She helped pay for ex-slaves to move to Colorado. She was also able to **reunite** with her daughter.

1. Was Clara successful in Colorado? Explain. _____
2. What did Clara do with the money she earned? _____
3. What does **reunite** mean? _____
4. What else would you like to know about Clara's life? _____

Day 4

Name _____

Clara Brown and the Wagon Train

Clara Brown was born a slave. She got her freedom papers in 1857. However, Clara had only one year to leave the state. If she did not leave, the law said she would become a slave again.

At the time, African Americans could not buy tickets for public transportation. Passage on a wagon train cost about \$500. Clara wanted to go west to search for her daughter Eliza. A wagon master offered her a job as a cook on his wagon train. Clara took the job.

Clara began cooking each morning at 4:00 am. Travel began by 7:00 am. The wagon train stopped for a break at noon and started traveling again at 2:00 pm. Wagons rolled until 5:00 pm. Oxen pulled the wagons. Oxen were cheaper than horses or mules. Oxen cost about \$50 apiece, half of the price of a mule. Oxen pulled a loaded wagon at about two miles per hour (about 3 kph) on flat land. A wagon train traveled about 15 miles (about 24 km) a day. A train had 30 to 200 wagons. Each wagon carried up to 2,500 pounds (1,193 kg). It took Clara's wagon train about eight weeks to get to Colorado. The trip was about 680 miles (about 1,094 km). Clara walked the whole way.

1. Write a word from the passage that has a silent consonant in the middle. _____

2. What is the plural of **ox**? _____

3. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - A. Clara was free when she got her freedom papers.
 - B. Clara got her freedom papers in 1857, but she had to leave the state or risk becoming a slave again.
 - C. Clara lost her freedom papers.

4. How many minutes (or hours) do you usually walk a day? Compare that with how many hours a day Clara walked on the journey to Colorado. _____

5. Why did Clara get a job on her way out west? Compare your answer here with your answer to the same question earlier this week. _____

