

Activity 1. Assessment. Teacher's Version

Using the Venn diagram below to organize their thinking, have students ask students to compare and contrast the biographical points of Walker and Day's lives. What are the unique and common points in their biographies?



Answer Key

Unique biographical points for David Walker

Born in 1796; born in Wilmington, North Carolina; mother was free so he was free; father was an unknown slave; greatly influenced by Christian evangelism of early 19th century; became actively involved in the African Methodist Episcopal Church; moved to Boston; married Eliza Butler; believed slavery was intolerable; believed that African Americans must take an aggressive role in resisting slavery and devote their lives to ending the institution; published the *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World* in 1829, a bold call to African Americans to stand up and demand full citizenship and fight against the institution of slavery; *Appeal* made Walker a hero among abolitionists and the enemy of southern white slave owners; died of a tuberculosis epidemic in 1830.

Common (overlapping) biographical points for David Walker and John Day

Both men were born free because their mothers were free; both were highly influenced by evangelical Christianity; both married; both found slavery to be intolerable; both died of natural causes (Walker thirty years before John Day).

Unique biographical points for John Day

Born in 1797; born in Hicksford in Greensville County, Virginia; mother was free so he was free; father was also free; greatly influenced by Christian evangelism of the early 19th century; became actively involved in the Baptist church; married Polly Wickham and had four children; later remarried; believed slavery was intolerable; believed that the only option for African Americans facing racism and inequality in the United States was to emigrate to Liberia, a colony created for free Americans of African descent; emigrated to Liberia and became a founding father of that country when it became an independent nation; in addition to being a statesman, he was also a cabinetmaker, an educator who founded several schools, a renowned Baptist preacher, and a missionary; became head of the Southern Baptist Missions in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Central Africa in 1847.