



## TIMELINE LESSON

**Purpose:** Students will make connections with historical chronology as they consider the life of Abby Kelley Foster. In this lesson students will compare a timeline of the life of Abby Kelley Foster to a timeline of key events in US History. The activities in this lesson are designed to get students to read and understand the timeline. They range from simple comprehension to mapping and more complex reading. Each activity can be done on its own in isolation, though we suggest doing them in order if you plan to do them all.

**Timeframe:** 1-2 class periods depending on how many of the individual activities are assigned.

### **Materials:**

- Abby Kelley Foster Timeline
- Timeline: Basic Questions
- Timeline: Presidents During Abby's Life
- Timeline: Abby's Geography
- Timeline: Map Activity
- 1850 Outline Map of the United States
- Timeline: Defining Moments

### **Procedure:**

1. Pass out Abby Kelley Foster Timeline to students and tell them to skim over both sides.
2. Use students' handouts: Basic Questions, Presidents During Abby's Life, and Abby's Geography, to check comprehension of the timeline. The Map Activity will extend the Abby's Geography activity. *Suggestions: To save paper, run handouts back to back. Basic Questions works well cooperatively with others as bonus or homework.*
3. The Timeline: Defining Moments activity will lead students to consider the effect certain events had on Abby's life. The teacher will need to provide some information for the students.

### **Extensions:**

- Students could construct their own travel map of their travels. This activity is good for those who finish ahead of the class.
- Students could make a whole class travel map.
- Students could list all the presidents that have been in office during their lives (for homework they can do their parents, grandparents...)



**Answers:**

Basic Questions: 1) United States National Events and Abby Kelley Foster Events; 2) 1811; 3) 1923; 4) 1811; 5) 1887; 6) almost 76; 7) 1845, 34 (almost 35); 8) 1847, 36; 9) 36; 10) a. Alla becomes ill with back problem and becomes General Agent of AASS, b. Abby joins Lynn Female Anti-slavery Society and goes to NYC for first all female anti-slavery convention, c. Alla graduates and moves to Roxbury

Presidents During Abby's Life:

President	Date Elected (list only first year)
<b>James Madison</b>	<b>1812</b>
James Monroe	1816
John Q. Adams	1824
Andrew Jackson	1828
Martin Van Buren	1836
William H. Harrison	1840
James Polk	1844
Zachary Taylor	1848
Millard Fillmore	1850
Franklin Pierce	1852
James Buchanan	1856
Abraham Lincoln	1860
Andrew Johnson	1865
Ulysses Grant	1868
Rutherford Hayes	1876

Abby's Geography:

Location	Date
<b>Pelham, MA</b>	<b>1811</b>
Worcester, MA	1811
Providence, RI	1826
Worcester, MA	1832
Lynn, MA	1836
New York, NY	1837
Philadelphia, PA	1838
Millbury, MA	1838
Connecticut	1838
New York, NY	1840
Rhode Island	1840
New York	1840
Uxbridge, MA	1841
New Hampshire	1843
New Brighton, PA	1845
Ohio	1846
Worcester, MA	1847
New York	1849
Ohio	1849
Worcester, MA	1850
Rochester, NY	1852
Michigan	1853
Wolcottville, Indiana	1854

Map Activity: From west to east:  
 Indiana (1854); Michigan (1853); Ohio (1849);  
 New Brighton, PA (1845); Rochester, NY  
 (1852); Philadelphia, PA (1838); New York  
 City, NY (1837); Connecticut (1838); **Pelham,  
 MA (1811)**;  
 Worcester, MA (1811); Millbury, MA (1838);  
 Uxbridge, MA (1841); Providence, RI (1826);  
 New Hampshire (1843); Lynn, MA (1836)

Map activity questions:

1) Antislavery agent, 1838; 2) Michigan and Indiana; 3) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; 4) South and Far West;  
 5) The South was slave holding and would not be receptive to anti-slavery message. Far West was too far  
 from home and too difficult to travel to.

Defining moments in Abby's Life:

Event #1: a) 21 b) Worcester Town Hall: c) D

Event #2: a) Elected to the Business Committee of American Anti-Slavery Society; b) New York City: c) B

Event #3: a) Attended First National Woman's Rights Convention; b) Worcester c) 39; d) A

Event #4: a) May 19, 1847; b) 36; c) C



**TIMELINE: Basic Questions**

1. Into what two headings is the timeline divided?
2. What is the earliest year listed on the timeline?
3. What is the latest year listed on the timeline?
4. In what year was Abby born?
5. In what year did she die?
6. How old was Abby when she died?
7. In what year and how old was Abby when she married Stephen S. Foster?
8. In what year and how old was Abby when she and Stephen bought the farm on Mower Street in Worcester, Massachusetts?
9. How old was Abby when her daughter was born?
10. What happened in Abby's life the same year as....
  - a) the Dred Scott Decision
  - b) the Panic of 1837
  - c) the Centennial of the Nation



**TIMELINE: Presidents During Abby's Life**

List the presidents, in order, who were in office during Abby's lifetime and give the date they were first elected. The first one is done for you.

<b>President</b>	<b>Date Elected (list only first date)</b>
James Madison	1812



**TIMELINE: Abby's Geography**

Next to each place Abby traveled write the date indicated on the timeline. The first one is done for you.

Location	Date
Pelham, MA	1811
Worcester, MA	
Providence, RI	
Worcester, MA	
Lynn, MA	
New York, NY	
Philadelphia, PA	
Millbury, MA	
Connecticut	
New York, NY	
Rhode Island	
New York	
Uxbridge, MA	
New Hampshire	
New Brighton, PA	
Ohio	
Worcester, MA	
New York	
Ohio	
Worcester, MA	
Rochester, NY	
Michigan	
Wolcottville, Indiana	



### **TIMELINE: Map Activity**

On the map provided, plot Abby's travels using your answers to Timeline: Abby's Geography. All the places Abby visited are indicated on the map with a dot.

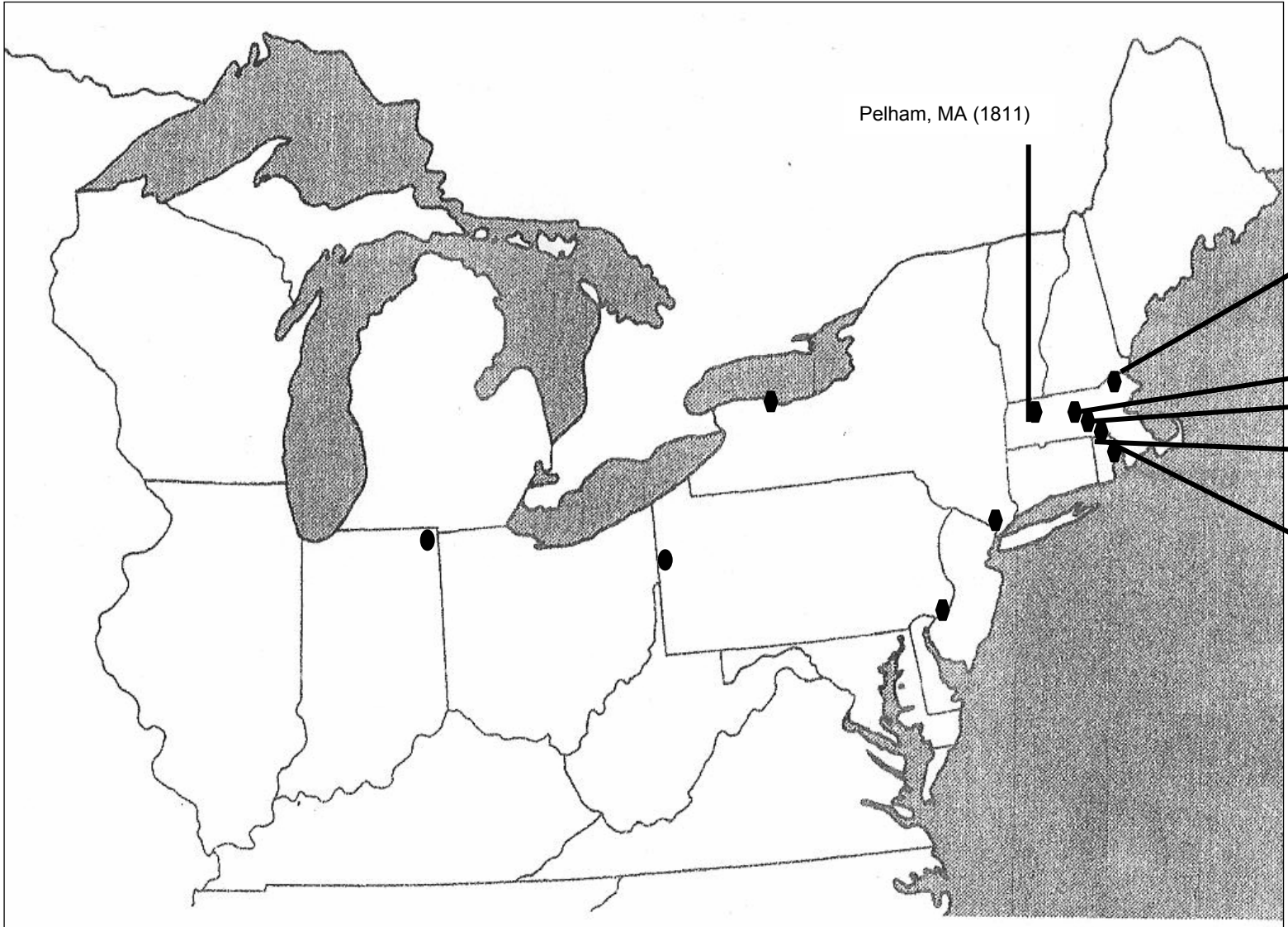
- 1. Neatly label the states shown on this map. No abbreviations please.**
- 2. Next to each dot:**
  - a) Write the name of the city, if one is given.
  - b) In parentheses write(s) the date Abby was there. (Sample done for you.)
  - c) If no city is given write date in parentheses in the correct state.
- 3. After you have labeled the map:**
  - a) Shade in all the states Abby visited in one color.
  - b) Shade in all the states she didn't visit in a different color or leave them white.

#### Questions:

1. Why is Abby traveling so much?
2. Which two states are the farthest west Abby traveled?
3. Which city is the farthest south Abby traveled?
4. To which regions of the country did Abby NOT travel?
5. Why do you think Abby did not travel to the regions you listed in #3?



## 1850 OUTLINE MAP OF THE UNITED STATES





**TIMELINE: Defining Moments in Abby's Life**

Use the timeline to consider the importance of certain events in Abby's life. You will answer the questions and then match the effect that you think best goes with the cause.

**EFFECTS**

**A**

Abby became a leader in the cause for human equality. She advocated (spoke out for) gender and racial equality.

**B**

Caused the anti-slavery movement to split when the issue of women's rights was raised.

**C**

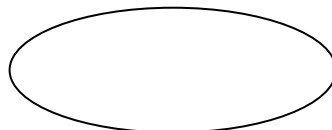
Abby struggled to balance her work as an anti-slavery lecturer with being a mother.

**D**

Inspired Abby to join the anti-slavery cause.

**Event #1: Abby Hears William Lloyd Garrison**

- a) How old was Abby when she first heard William Lloyd Garrison speak?
- b) Where did he speak?
- c) Write the letter of the effect that would have been caused by this event,







**Event #2: Abby Becomes a Leader**

- a) What happened to Abby when she turned 29?
- b) Where did this take place?
- c) Write the letter of the effect that would have been caused by this event,

**Event #3: Abby Helps Organize National Woman's Rights Convention**

- a) What did Abby do in October of 1850?
- b) Where did this event take place?
- c) How old was Abby for this event?
- d) Write the letter of the effect that would have been caused by this event.

**Event#4: Abby Becomes a Mother**

- a) When was Abby's daughter, Alla, born?
- b) How old was Abby when Alla was born?
- c) Write the letter of the effect that would have been caused by this event.