

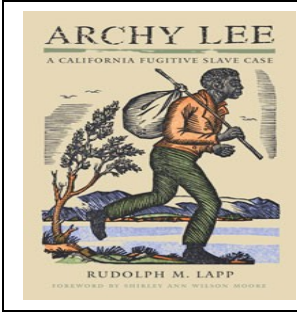


Bids for Freedom
Reading Organizer: Teacher Key

Directions: As you read about each freedom seeker, write down important facts and details about each case.

Important Information	Bridget Mason Age: 38	Dred Scott Age: about 46 when the case began	Archy Lee Age: 18	Success or Failure?
				<p>How important is this factor in the success or failure of the court cases? (Note: Responses will vary depending on student discussions.)</p>
Location	Los Angeles, CA	St. Louis, MO	Sacramento and San Francisco, CA	<p>Responses will require students to draw upon prior knowledge that Missouri was a slave state and California was a free state in order to conclude that the location was an important factor in the success of the case.</p>
Owner	Robert Smith	Dr. John Emerson	Charles Stovall	<p>Students should notice that all three owners moved from one state to another and the status of that state as free or slave. Students</p>

**Bids for Freedom
Reading Organizer: Teacher Key**

				may conclude that this may not be as important to the success of the case as location.
Date of Court Case	1856	1846 – 1857	1857	Although students may conclude that the years are around the same time and may not be a significant factor, thoughtful responses will require students to bring in additional knowledge about the political and social climate of the 1850s. Students may suggest that since the ruling for Mason's case occurred before the other two, timing may be important to the success of one of the cases.
How the case got to court	When Smith wanted to move to Texas, Bob Owens petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus for Mason and her daughters	Scott sued for his freedom. He argued that he became free when his master took him to live in the free territories of Illinois and Wisconsin	When Stovall wanted to return to Mississippi, Archy Lee took refuge with free blacks; Stovall tracked him down and had him jailed; one of the hotel	

**Bids for Freedom
Reading Organizer: Teacher Key**

			proprietors filed a writ of habeas corpus to get Lee released	
Allies	Bob Owens, African American corral owner in LA, and his vaqueros	Sons of his first master, Peter Blow	Mary Ellen Pleasant, the African American community in Northern California	This factor is very important to the success of the cases. Students should notice that Mason and Lee had numerous allies that were able to help them (i.e. submit writs of habeas corpus, publish newspaper articles, provide funds, etc.)
Deciding court	Los Angeles County Court	U.S. Supreme Court	U.S. Federal Commissioner	Responses will vary.
Court's Ruling	Declared Mason and her daughters free	1)The first court granted freedom. 2)The Missouri Supreme Court overturned the ruling. 3)The U.S. Supreme Court decided that Scott was property and could not be free	Went to court 3 times 1)First time, Judge Robinson granted the writ 2) Second time, the California State Supreme Court declared that Lee was not Stovall's property, but he was to return to him 3) County Judge T.W. Freelon overturned the earlier ruling and	Responses will vary but students should conclude that this is an explanation, and not a reason for the plaintiffs' success or failure.

Bids for Freedom
Reading Organizer: Teacher Key

			declared Lee free 4) U.S. Marshals brought Lee to the U.S Commissioner who declared him free because he did not violate the National Fugitive Slave Law	
Reason for Ruling	Smith gave up his right to ownership once he entered California	a) Scott did not have any rights because he was considered to be property and did not have the right to sue in court b) Scott could not be free by being on free soil c) Congress could not decide if slavery was illegal or not in federal territory	The Commissioner was not going to send a man back into slavery	Responses will vary but students should conclude that this is a reason for the plaintiffs' success or failure. Since judges have the power to interpret the law, the non-uniformity of decisions is significant.
Life After the Ruling	Mason settled in LA, worked as a midwife and nurse, bought property, and established the LA branch of the AME Church	The sons of his first master, Peter Blow, bought Dred Scott and his wife, then set them free. He died 9 months after the court decision.	Lee found a home at Mary Ellen Pleasant's boardinghouse	Responses will vary but students should conclude that this is a result, and not a reason for the plaintiffs' success or failure.