

Halfway to Freedom

High School: Grades 9–12

Map Guide

Enjoy using the Interactive History Map to complete this map guide! Remember to use the zooming tools—the plus, minus, and arrow symbols—to look closely at all the pictures.

1. Click on the “Jones’s Chicago” tab. Take a few minutes to click on all three dots on the map, looking at the photograph of each location when it appears on the right side of your screen. Look at both the “Then” and “Now” views and read the “Look Closer” captions for more information. Describe the Jones’s Chicago. How was it similar to our city today? How was it different?

2. Click on the “Then” button and go to the green artifact tray on the bottom of your screen. Click on the first photograph of the silver forks. Click on the blue “Narration” button and read along as you listen. Use the zoom tools to take a close look at the photograph. The Jones’s were real people. Considering who the forks were from, what do they likely indicate regarding the Jones’s political beliefs and activities?

3. Click on the second and third images; paintings of Mary Richardson Jones and her husband, John Jones. When these portraits were painted, few people—white or black—could afford such a luxury. What details in the paintings indicate the Jones’s wealth and social status?

	Portraits	Details that indicate wealth and social status:
A.	Mary Richardson Jones	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
B.	John Jones	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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4. If you had a portrait painted of yourself or sat for a formal photograph, what message would you want to send about yourself? Describe what you would wear. What belongings would you include with you in the image?

5. Click on the fifth image of the “Chicago Press and Tribune” newspaper. Use the zoom tool to read some of the text. Find one item pertaining to local news, one national news item, and one business ad. Look under the amusements column on the right. What entertainment options did Chicagoans have that evening?

A. Local News:

B. National News:

C. Advertisement:

D. Entertainment:

How does this compare to a modern newspaper?

6. Click on the sixth item in the artifact tray, the D.B. Cooke & Company city directory. Use the zoom tool to find the listing for John Jones (hint: he lived on Edinah Place). What does this directory tell the user about John Jones? What do you think the directory was used for? Compare John Jones’s entry to some of the other Joneses listed. What other kinds of work were popular during 1860—61? The directory notes the race of each person listed. Why do you think this information was included?

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7. Click on the “Courthouse” tab. Go to the artifact tray and click on the first image, “John Jones Certificate of Freedom.” Click on the blue “Narration” button and read along as you listen. Why were freedom papers so important?

8. Click on the third and fourth images, photographs of John and Mary Jones. Recall the painted portraits of the couple you examined earlier. Which type of picture (the paintings or the photographs) conveys more about them? Why? Do you exchange pictures with your friends and acquaintances? How?

9. Click on the sixth image, “Douglass Commemorative Spoon.” Mary Jones owned this spoon detailing the milestones in Frederick Douglass’s life. Use the zoom tools to take a close look. Which part of his life do you find most compelling? Why? Why do you think the symbol of a chain was used to decorate the handle? Why do you think the last link in the chain is broken?

10. Click on the “Train Station” tab. Go to the artifact tray and click on the first image of a reward broadside. Click on the blue “Narration” button and read along as you listen. Do you think reward broadsides encouraged false identification of people? Why?

11. From all the images in the interactive history map, select the one you find most interesting. Make up your own question about the picture. What is the picture?

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Your question:

12. Write two things you have learned about Chicago history from completing this map guide.

A. _____

B. _____

13. Click again on the “Courthouse” tab. Go to the artifact tray and click on the eighth image of the Jones memorial at Graceland Cemetery. Use the zoom tool to examine the monument. Now imagine the city has decided to dedicate a public sculpture to honor the Jones’s contributions to Chicago. On a separate piece of paper, write a two-paragraph essay proposing a design. What would your tribute look like? What inscription would you write honoring the Jones’s lives and work? Refer back to the answers you recorded in this map guide to help write your proposal.