



Mary Ann Shadd was a freeborn woman of colour and a teacher. She moved to Canada West in 1851. In 1852, she published a pamphlet called *Notes on Canada West*. This pamphlet advised Blacks to come to Canada from the US. Mary Ann Shadd was also the first woman of colour newspaper publisher in North America. Her newspaper, the *Provincial Freeman*, spoke out against slavery and was published in Windsor and Toronto.

*I'm on my way to Canada
That cold and distant land
The dire effects of slavery
I can no longer stand—
Farewell old master,
Don't come after me.
I'm on my way to Canada
Where coloured men are free.*

—A version of the song “The Free Slave”
by American George W. Clark

1. What advice do you think Mary Ann Shadd might give Blacks about coming to Canada in her pamphlet?
2. If you were a slave who wanted to escape to Canada in the mid 1800s, how do you think you would find out about the Underground Railroad? What methods could you use to hide and get across the border? What dangers do you think you would face?
3. Find out more about some other Black settlers who came to Canada during this period. How did they get to Canada and where did they settle? How did their lives change after settling in their new community?

Here are some web sites to help you get started: www.ciaccess.com/~jdnewby/heritage/african.htm (African Canadian Heritage Tour) and www.ugrr.org.

A historic plaque in Windsor, Ontario, reads:

Here the slave found freedom. Before the United States Civil War 1861-65, Windsor was an important terminal of the Underground Railroad. Escaping from bondage, thousands of fugitive slaves from the South—men, women, and children—landing near this spot found in Canada friends, freedom, and protection under the British flag.