Many of the dresses worn by First Lady Mary Lincoln during her time in the White House were designed by Elizabeth Keckly, a formerly enslaved woman and talented seamstress.

During the Lincoln administration, Mrs. Keckly worked as a free and independent dressmaker for the wives of prominent politicians in Washington, D.C. In the 1860s, women’s clothing was designed to emphasize a small waist. Skirts were full and round at the bottom.

Now, imagine you are Elizabeth Keckly and Mrs. Lincoln asks for a new dress. **What would you design for the first lady?**
Step 1: Read the Classroom Resource Packet (CRP): *Slavery, Freedom, and the White House.*
Step 2: Read the prompt to discover which individual is being described.
Step 3: Fill in the missing letters to identify the individual from the CRP.

I provided President Lincoln with advice and later worked as the White House Steward.

\[ __ __ __ L__ __ __ S__ A __ __ \]

I saved important items from a fire in 1814 and wrote a White House memoir after purchasing my freedom.

\[ __ __ U__ _ E__ N__ __ __ \]

I was married to Gracy Bradley.

\[ A__ __ __ E __ J __ __ S__ __ \]

I went to the White House during the Civil War to advocate for all African Americans.

\[ __ __ J __ U__ __ __ __ R__ __ H \]

First Lady Mary Lincoln admired my skills and my friendship while she lived in the White House.

\[ __ __ __ Z__ __ __ T__ __ __ C__ L__ \]
My executive leadership guided the nation through the Civil War and eventually helped to put an end to slavery.

__B___ __ _  __I___ __ _ N

I was an enslaved seamstress in Andrew Jackson’s White House.

__R__ __ Y    __ __A__ __ E__

This measure was only adopted in Washington, D.C., but ended slavery in the nation’s capital by paying slaveholders for their freed enslaved individuals.

_C___ __ ___S___ ___ D  __ __A___ __I___ __T___ __
  __ 16  __ 17

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Who did you come up with? This formerly enslaved person was a prominent abolitionist who met with President Lincoln.

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
  15  7  9  2  16  5  17  11  10  14  6  8  12  3  1  13  4

Share your finished work with us on Twitter at @WhiteHouseHstry or via email at education@whha.org.