Design a Dress Like Elizabeth Keckley

Many of the dresses worn by First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln during her time in the White House were designed by Elizabeth Keckley, a formerly enslaved woman featured in the Resource Packet: Slavery, Freedom, and the White House.

During the Lincoln administration, Mrs. Keckley 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 Keckley and Mrs. Lincoln asked for a new dress. What would you design for the first lady?

Share your finished designs with us at @WhiteHouseHstry or onlinereresources@whha.org

Example Dress

Inspired by Lincoln White House china design
Anywhere Activity

Slavery and Freedom Anagram

Step 2: Answer the clues below filing in the spaces provided.
Step 3: Use the corresponding letters to fill in the name of the individual.

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 Todd Lincoln admired my skills and my friendship while she lived in the White House.

_ _ Z _ _ _ T _ _ _ C _ L _ _

Share your finished work with us at @WhiteHouseHstry or onlinerources@whha.org
My executive leadership guided the nation through the Civil War and eventually helped to put an end to slavery.

**Slavery and Freedom Anagram**

__ 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 __ __

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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

Answers will be provided in next week’s White House History Wednesday.