

## **The Story Matters . . .**

His is a complicated story that raises many questions about slavery and freedom. Dred Scott was born into slavery in Virginia. He has been bought and sold like a piece of furniture. He has been taken against his will to live in many places—including, for a time, a place where slavery is illegal. Now Scott is wondering: Did his time in “free” territory turn him into a free man? He decides to take his question to a court for a judge to decide.

Other people wonder if Scott—an enslaved African American—even has the right to go to court.

The answers to these questions are of great interest to the people of the United States. Emotions run high as the debate over slavery rages.