

## Teacher's What the Letter Tells Us

**Instructions:** First read the letter with your partner using the vocabulary list to help your comprehension. After that, re-read the letter and answer the following questions:

1. When and where was the letter written? [January 7, 1863; Toronto, Canada](#)
2. To whom is this letter addressed? [President Abraham Lincoln](#)
3. What was happening in the U.S. that the author became aware of at the time of writing this letter? [Colored troops were forming in the Union army to man the U.S. forts during the American Civil War. For more details about the formation of the U.S. colored troops, refer to the online resource, "War Department General Order 143: Creation of the U.S. Colored Troops \(1863\)," at the Our Documents website at <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=35>.](#)
4. Who is the author of this letter? [A. T. Augusta](#)
5. List three things about the author described in the letter?
  - a. Birth country: [United States](#)
  - b. Race/Ethnicity: [African American](#)
  - c. Profession: [Medical Doctor](#)
6. What specific thing does the author mention that he was not allowed to obtain in the United States? Why?  
[Knowledge and education to become a medical doctor; because of "prejudice against colour"](#)
7. How did the author go about doing what he was capable of, instead of accepting that he was not allowed to do it?  
[Dr. Augusta left the United States and went to Canada to study and receive a Bachelor of Medicine from Trinity College in Toronto, Canada.](#)
8. What did the author request in the letter? Why? [Dr. Augusta wanted to be appointed as a surgeon to the colored regiments/troops, so that he could be of "use to my race."](#)