

## Rose Fortune

*These questions can help to guide a student's viewing of the Rose Fortune biography.*

1. What were two of Rose Fortune's greatest assets? How did she put these assets to good use?
2. Where was Rose born? How did she spend her early years?
3. Why did Rose's family make the journey to Canada? Where in Canada did she begin her new life?
4. Once in Canada, Black families continued to "struggle for their freedom." Why did they encounter so many difficulties? What did the government do for them?
5. What was life like for Black children in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia?
6. What was the typical career option for black women at this time? What did Rose decide to do instead? Explain the significance of this decision.
7. What did Rose believe were the most important aspects of freedom?
8. What American law was first passed in 1793? Explain what this law allowed.
9. Explain what a "baggage smasher" is. Why was handling baggage a non-traditional career for women?
10. Rose's business gave her plenty of opportunities to meet many prominent people. What did this enable her to do? Why do you think these connections would prove valuable in years to come?
11. Rose Fortune kept order with the local townspeople by administering her own form of justice. What did she begin in Annapolis? Why is it significant today?
12. Identify and describe the Underground Railroad. Did it go to Nova Scotia?
13. Why were free slaves in Canada threatened by the Fugitive Slave Laws? How did British Law in Canada make it easier for slave owners to reclaim their slaves?
14. What did Rose become in order to help the Underground Railroad? How did she transport escaped slaves from the docks to the safe houses?
15. What role did Rose's rhythmic pounding of her stick play?
16. What primary sources tell us the story of Rose Fortune?
17. How was Rose different from other women in Annapolis?
18. Why do you think people accepted Rose despite her differences?