Atop the Dome of the U.S. Capitol stands a statue more than 19 feet tall, cast in bronze. Her name is Freedom. American artist Thomas Crawford sculpted Freedom from plaster at his studio in Rome, Italy. Crawford created three designs, shown below.

Consider the different poses, clothes and objects each version includes.

Which one do you like best? _____ Why? __________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

The statue was shipped across the ocean in five pieces and assembled by an Italian craftsman for temporary display on the Capitol grounds. Then the pieces were to be taken apart and cast into bronze.

The U.S. government hired Clark Mills, who owned a foundry in Washington, D.C., to make the bronze castings. A foundry is a factory where metal is melted for casting. However, the artist who assembled Freedom covered the seams between the five pieces in plaster, hiding them from view. He refused to take his work apart unless he received a pay raise. Only one man knew what to do. His name was Philip Reid.
Reid was an enslaved man working in the foundry. Reid noticed the lifting ring on top of Freedom’s helmet.

With a pulley and tackle, workers lifted the statue, making the seams between the pieces visible. Workers then took her apart and cast the bronze pieces at the foundry.

The U.S. government paid Clark Mills $400 a month, plus the cost of materials and labor, for work completed six days a week at the foundry.

For a period of time, Philip Reid worked seven days a week. Because Reid was enslaved, he was never paid for work completed Monday through Saturday, but the government paid Reid directly if he worked on Sundays.
This is a pay voucher received by Philip Reid.

Explore the document and answer the questions below.

1. How many Sundays did Reid work from July 1, 1860, to May 16, 1861? 

2. How much money did Reid earn per Sunday? 

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**Date:** May 16, 1861

**To:** Philip Reid

**Dr.**

**Application:** Keeping up work between July 1, 1860, and May 16, 1861, for 53 days (Sunday) at $1.38 per day.

**Cost:** $41.25

**Certificate:** I certify that the articles above charged have been received and services performed; that they were necessary for, and have been, or will be, applied to the construction of the New Domes of the Capitol, and that the prices were, in my opinion, just and reasonable.

Walter,

RECEIVED, Washington, D.C., this 16th day of May, 1861, from Capt. W. B. Franklin, in charge of appropriations engineers, in charge, the sum of five dollars, ninety-five cents, in full payment of the above account.

(Signed duplicates.)

Of. Of. of Finance

Philip X. Reid

\[\text{Clerk, July 1972}\]
The District of Columbia Emancipation Act made Philip Reid a free man.

It is believed that Philip Reid was the only enslaved person to work directly on the Statue of Freedom.

On December 2, 1863, workers hoisted the statue and placed her on the Capitol Dome.

The U.S. Capitol in the winter of 1863-1864

In 1865, three years after Emancipation, Reid owned and operated his own business as a plasterer. Author S.D. Wyeth wrote in The Federal City, “Mr. Reed, the former slave, is now in business for himself, and highly esteemed by all who know him.”