**Dred Scott Chronology**

1800: Born a slave in southeast Virginia

1830: His master, Peter Blow, brings Dred to St. Louis. Within the next few years Peter Blow dies and leaves Dred Scott to his daughter.

1833: Sold to Dr. Emerson, a surgeon in the United States Army stationed at Jefferson Barracks.

1834: Dr. Emerson moves with his unit to Fort Armstrong at Rock Island, Illinois, and takes Dred along. Under the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the State constitution of 1818, slavery is prohibited in Illinois. However, Army and Navy officers do not consider themselves to be citizens of a State merely because they are stationed there.

1836: Dr. Emerson is transferred to Fort Snelling on the west side of the Mississippi in what is now Minnesota. Dr. Emerson takes Dred along, although Fort Snelling is in a territory from which slavery was barred by the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Not long after arriving, Dr. Emerson buys a slave woman named Harriet. Dred and Harriet marry with their master's consent.

1837: Dr. Emerson is transferred, probably to Fort Gibson. He leaves his slaves and hires them out to another officer at Fort Snelling.

1838: Dred and Harriet are sent to Dr. Emerson at Jefferson Barracks. En route, on board the steamboat, their first daughter, Eliza, is born.

1843: Dr. Emerson dies. The Scotts ware left to his widow, Irene, for the benefit of their minor daughter.

1846: On April 6, Dred and Harriet Scott file separate petitions for their freedom in the St. Louis Courthouse.

1847: In a trial held in the Old Courthouse, the Scotts lose their case on a technicality. They are given permission for a second trial by the Missouri Supreme Court.

1850: On January 12, in a room on the first floor in the west wing of the Old Courthouse, the Circuit Court of St. Louis County awards Dred Scott and his family their freedom. Mrs. Irene Emerson appeals to the Missouri Supreme Court.

1852: The Missouri Supreme Court, convening in St. Louis, overturns the Circuit Court decision. Missouri breaks with past court decisions and no longer enforces the laws of free states and territories, declaring that "times now are not as they once were." The court defends slavery itself, saying that it places "that unhappy race within the pale of civilized nations."

1854: The Scotts file a new suit in Federal Court. John F.A. Sanford of New York, Irene Emerson's brother and agent, is named as defendant. The defense maintains that Dred Scott is not a citizen, and thus has no right to sue in court. The court upholds the right of Scott to sue, but the jury finds that he and his family are still slaves. The Scotts' lawyer, Roswell B. Field (father of the poet Eugene Field) appeals to the Supreme Court of the United States.

1856: In an atmosphere of increasing distrust between North and 1857 South, the Dred Scott case is considered by the U.S. Supreme Court. Montgomery Blair and George T. Curtis argue on behalf of the Scotts; Revered Jonson and Henry S. Geyer for Sanford. On March 6, 1857, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney reads the official opinion of the court.

Write at least a paragraph about what you think the Supreme Court decided or should have decided in this case and why (base it on fact and law).