

The Underground Railroad

A WebQuest for 5th
Grade
Social Studies



Introduction

The life of a slave in the 1800's was a very hard one. Slaves were often sold to owners far from their families. The only way out of a life of slavery was to wait for your master to free you or escape. This one chance at freedom is why many chose to take a ride on the Underground Railroad.



Process

- First, you need to find out what your life as a slave is like. Will you chose to escape?
- You must make your escape from your plantation in Montgomery, Alabama to the "promised land". Your group must learn about the underground railroad and those who will be helpful to you on your journey. You must then plan your escape route.
- Now its time for you to take a ride on the underground railroad! Get ready for an exciting adventure...
- Finally, each person must produce a quilt square telling of your escape to freedom and present it to your group. The quilt squares will be joined together and displayed outside the classroom.



Task 1- Life as a slave

- What was life like for slaves on a plantation? As you read, think about the differences between how the slaves and their masters lived. Would you stay and remain a slave or take your chances at a better life?

[Click here!](#)



Task 2- The Plan

- You've made the decision- escape is the only answer! Now you must learn about the underground railroad and it's conductors. Pick two of the people highlighted on the website and read about them.

[Click Here](#)

- Next, you must plan your escape from the plantation in Montgomery, Alabama to Toledo, Ohio. Once you're in Toledo you will board a boat for Canada. You will plot your escape route on the blank United States map, using the underground railroad site map. Correctly label all the states you will pass through and color your "route to freedom" red.

[Click Here](#)



Task 3- All Aboard!



Time to ride the Underground Railroad!

Get ready for a perilous journey aboard the "freedom train" to a new life in the "promised land". You will need to be brave, smart, and a little lucky to make your journey a safe and successful one.

■ Good Luck!



Task 4- Making a Quilt Square

- Gather your supplies: tag board square, crayons, colored pencils or markers.
- Put your name on the back of the square. Divide the square into 4 parts (they do not have to be equal).
- Think about the things you learned. You need to illustrate 2 facts about the underground railroad and 2 facts about a person you read about.
- You may use pictures you draw, facts you write, symbols, or a combination to illustrate your facts.
- Be creative and have fun!
- Be prepared to present your quilt square to your group.



Conclusion

- Congratulations on your successful journey to the "promised land" aboard the underground railroad! It was a difficult and sometimes scary adventure but it was worth it. Now you have a greater appreciation of what some of your fellow citizens have gone through to enjoy the freedom we cherish.

