

Station #1

Underground Railroad Game

- 1) First- talk non-stop for 1 minute or you get penalty-points. What do you already know about The Underground Railroad? What would you like to know more about it?
- 2) Each person needs to use his or her own laptop; however, you must all work at the same pace. You do NOT play the game by yourself. You make the decisions together with your team. Then you individually click on your own computer what your team decides.
- 3) Go to this website:
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad>
- 4) Click on "ENTER"
- 5) Read the directions together with your team.
- 6) Your entire team must discuss the decisions you must make together and you all must click on the same decisions.
- 7) Try to "escape to freedom on The Underground Railroad". YOU MUST CLICK ON AND READ THE INFORMATION ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS ALONG THE WAY!!!!
- 8) Take a few "interesting notes" along the way about interesting and important things (and people) you learn about The Underground Railroad.
- 9) If you finish the game early, go ahead and play the game just by yourself this time and make different choices and read about different things.
- 10) If you finish this, then do your own internet research to find out more details about anything you found interesting about The Underground Railroad.

Station #2

African-American Underground Railroad Quilt Codes

- 1) Talk 1 minute non-stop with your team or you get penalty points. What do you already know about how clothes and fashion can be used as "resistance?" Do you think "fashion" can be a form of resistance? Explain?
- 2) Each person take a handout called "Underground Railroad Quilt Code". Read it by yourself
- 3) **After you read it discuss for 1 minute with your team why did slaves make quilts? What messages did they put in quilts?**
- 4) Each person take a handout called "Examples of Slave Quilt Codes"
- 5) Look over some of the examples of quilt codes used for runaway slaves. On your Notesheet DRAW at least 2 different quilt codes and explain what they mean. SHOW THEM TO YOUR PARTNER!!
- 6) Each person go to this website:
http://pathways.thinkport.org/secrets/secret_quilt.cfm
- 7) Click on "Go the Interactive" and follow the directions to make your own quilt online!

Station #3

Famous Speeches Given by African-American Runaway Slaves now Free Men

- 1) Talk for 1 minute non-stop or you get penalty points. What do you know about famous African-American speakers during this time and Civil War? What do you know about any current African-American protests going on in the USA right now?
- 2) Each of you go to www.youtube.com and search "James Earl Jones Reads Frederick Douglass". Click on the 4:49 speech where James Earl Jones reads some of the famous speech given by Frederick Douglass called "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July". Frederick Douglass was a runaway slave who became a famous speaker who traveled around the USA speaking out against slavery.
Listen to the 4:49 speech by yourself or with your group. (Use headphones if you have them)

After you listen to the speech, **YOU MUST discuss with your team what are 4 main ideas in this speech and what is your opinion of them. Write main idea key words on your Notesheet.**

- 3) Each of you go to www.youtube.com and search "David Walker's Appeal and Declaration". Click on the 4:16 youtube clip called David Walker's Appeal (and the Declaration of Independence). Listen by yourself and then discuss 5 main ideas with your group and take notes of key words.
David Walker is the son of a slave who also became a famous speaker who traveled around the USA giving speeches against slavery. In this performance, David Walker is comparing the USA Declaration of Independence to the life of USA slaves.

Station #4

Songs of the Underground Railroad

- 1) Talk with your team for 1 minute non-stop or you get penalty points. How can songs be used as resistance? What are some songs and singers currently in USA and Taiwan that you think are 'forms of resistance?'
- 2) In order to pass on information to runaway slaves along the Underground Railroad, African-Americans used songs. These songs gave information to runaway slaves about the best paths to take to freedom and what dangers to avoid. These songs have been passed down over the generations and still are alive today. Let's listen to a few famous songs that started as advice to runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad!
- 3) Each person take and read the handout called 1) Explanation of Follow the Drinking Gourd. Read it by yourself. Then go to www.youtube.com and search "Follow the Drinking Gourd Richie Havens" Click on the 3:44 clip of famous folk singer Richie Havens singing this song with pictures of the Underground Railroad in the background.
-Write a few notes about this song on your Notesheet
- 4) Each person take a read the handout called 2) Wade in the Water. This was Harriet Tubman's most famous song. Read the explanation and lyrics.
- 5) Go to www.youtube.com and search "wade in the water eva". Click on the 4:06 version by one of my favorite singers- Eva Cassidy and listen to the song.
-Write a few notes about this song on your Notesheet
- 6) If you still have time search on youtube for "12 Years a Slave Roll Jordan Roll" and watch the 2 minute clip from the movie that includes the famous slave song "Roll Jordan Roll". Watch the clip then do some research about this song and write some notes.

Station #5: Discussion & Secret Code Language

1. First you and your team must talk for 4 minutes non-stop or you get penalty points! Discuss these questions:

Question #1: What are your thoughts about what we have been learning about slavery and resistance to slavery in US History? What do you find interesting, surprising, important, etc....?

Question #2: Why do you think it is important for every USA citizen to study the history of USA slavery in detail?

Question #3: Do you think the USA's History of slavery has any effects on the USA today? Explain...

Question #4; What ideas do you have for Project #3 for this class? Topic ideas and Creative Project Ideas?

Question #5: How can people (or teenagers) creating and using their own "secret language" be a form of resistance? Explain? Can you give any examples of "secret language" or "secret communication" you can your friends use?

2. After 4 minutes discussion- continue here....Many resistance movements need to create their own secret language that only they can understand- and the authorities cannot understand. This was true of slaves and the Underground Railroad.
3. Each person take a handout called "Underground Railroad Secret Language" Look over both sides of the handout with TERMS and also PHRASES
4. By yourself on your notesheet write 3 "secret sentences" by yourself and the secret meaning. For example you could write "The wind blows from the South today, so the shepherds are quiet. Tomorrow Moses will get the baggage where the river ends between the two hills." Which really means "Slave hunters are close by, so the slave escorts are not out today. Tomorrow Harriet Tubman will be at the Tombigbee River to meet you."
5. After you write your 3 sentences take turns reading 1 of your sentences to your Team. Try to guess the meaning of the secret sentences each person reads.

Underground Railroad Quilt Code

Secret messages in the form of quilt patterns aided slaves escaping the bonds of captivity in the Southern states before and during the American Civil War.

Slaves could not read or write; it was illegal to teach a slave to do so. Codes, therefore, were part and parcel of the slaves' existence and their route to freedom, which eventually became known as the Underground Railroad. Some forms of dance, spirituals, code words and phrases, and memorized symbols all allowed the slaves to communicate with each other on a level their white owners could not interpret. Codes were created by both whites aiding the slaves, and by Blacks aiding the slaves. The Blacks included other slaves, former slaves or free men and women. In slavery, secrecy was one way the blacks could protect themselves from the whites; even the youngest child was taught to effectively keep a secret from anyone outside of the family.

Most quilt patterns had their roots in the African traditions the slaves brought with them to North America when they were captured and forced to leave their homeland. The Africans' method of recording their history and stories was by committing it to memory and passing it on orally to following generations. Quilt patterns were passed down the same way. It is interesting to note that, in Africa, the making of textiles was done by males; it was not until the slaves' arrival in North America that this task fell to the females.

The quilt patterns, used in a certain order, relayed messages to slaves preparing to escape. Each pattern represented a different meaning. Some of the most common were "Monkey Wrench", "Star", "Crossroads", and "Wagon Wheel". Quilts slung over a fence or windowsill, seemingly to air, passed on the necessary information to knowing slaves. As quilts hung out to air was a common sight on a plantation, neither the plantation owner nor the overseer would notice anything suspicious. It was all part of a day's work for the slaves.

Characteristic of African culture is the communication of secrets through the use of common, everyday objects; the objects are seen so often they are no longer noticeable. This applied to the quilts and their patterns, stitching and knotting. It has been suggested that the stitching and the knotting on slave quilts contained secret information, too, as map routes and the distances between safe houses. Using the quilts, spirituals and code words, the slaves could effectively communicate nonverbally with each other and aid each other to escape.

There is still controversy among historians and scholars over the quilt code theory, and whether or not escaping slaves actually used codes concealed within quilt patterns to follow the escape routes of the Underground Railroad. As oral histories leave no written record, there is no written proof that the codes in the quilt patterns actually existed. What remains are the stories passed down through the generations from the slaves themselves, and, following the code of secrecy, many of the stories were never told.

EXAMPLES OF SLAVE QUILT CODES

Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

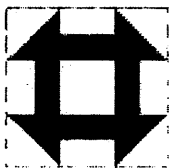
Underground Railroad Quilt Guide

3. After reading together the information about each quilt block:
- Offer children art supplies (crayons, markers, assorted paper, wrapping paper, fabric scraps and scissors).
 - Have them trim the squares along the lines, then fill in the squares with color, patterns and textures.
 - Tell children to create quilt squares with hidden meanings. Remind them that colors, patterns, textures, "stitches" and "knots" (drawn on with a fine line marker), can each indicate a coded symbol.
 - Children can create individual squares which may be taped or quilted together as a class quilt, or they may create individual quilts by gluing a number of completed squares to lengths of craft paper which can then be displayed on walls and hallways.
4. Invite children to write essays describing the symbolism present in their quilt square(s).

QUILT PATTERNS & THEIR MEANINGS

Monkey Wrench

This meant the slaves were to gather all the tools they might need on the journey to freedom. Tools meant: something with which to build shelters, compasses for determining direction, or tools to serve as weapons for defending themselves.



Wagon Wheel

This was the second pattern to be displayed, which signaled the slaves to pack all the things that would go in a wagon or that would be used during their journey. This was a signal for the slaves to think about what essentials they needed to survive the trip.



Carpenter's Wheel (Wagon Wheel variation)

This pattern would have particular significance to slaves skilled in a craft—such as carpentry. (Other such patterns might be: an Anvil, Circular Saw, Square and Compass.) It was also a symbol to "steal away"—a visual equivalent to the popular spiritual "Steal Away", which many slaves knew and sang. The pattern told slaves to "run with faith" to the west—northwest territories.



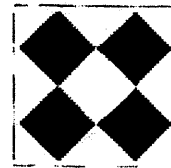
Bear's Paw

It's believed that this pattern was sometimes used to help fugitives follow the path of the bear, and to identify landmarks on the edge of the plantation.



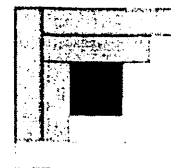
Crossroads

Once through the mountains, slaves were to travel to the crossroads. The main crossroad was Cleveland, Ohio. Any quilt hung before this one would have given directions to Ohio.



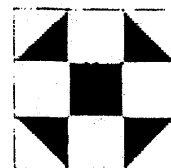
Log Cabin

This pattern was used to let the slaves know where safe houses were. People who helped the Underground Railroad may have identified themselves as friends to slaves on the run by tracing this pattern in dirt as a signal. This quilt told slaves to look for this symbol on their journey to freedom. It was also a symbol to set up a "home" in a free state.



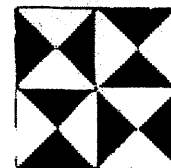
Shoofly

Little is known about this pattern. It is believed that Shoofly refers to an actual person who might have aided escaping slaves.



Bow Ties

Slaves' clothes were often tattered and easy to spot. This pattern meant that someone would bring the slave nice clothes to help them blend in with the free blacks.



Flying Geese

This pattern told the slaves to follow migrating geese north towards Canada and to freedom. This pattern was used as directions as well as the best season for slaves to escape. Geese fly north in the spring and summer. Flying geese pointed to the direction, north, for the slaves to move. Also, geese would have to stop at waterways along their journey in order to rest and eat. Slaves were to take their cues on direction, timing and behavior from the migrating geese.



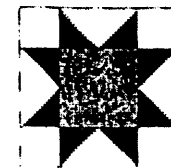
Drunkard's Path

This was a clear warning for the slaves to move in a staggering fashion so as to elude any following slave hunters. It was suggested that slaves even double back to elude their pursuers.



North Star (Evening Star/Star)

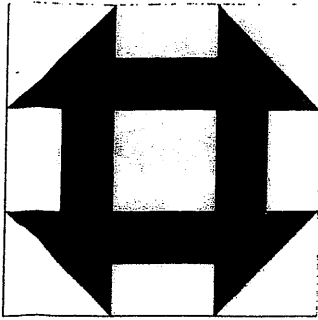
This instructed the slaves to follow the North Star to Canada and to freedom.



Tumbling Blocks (Boxes)

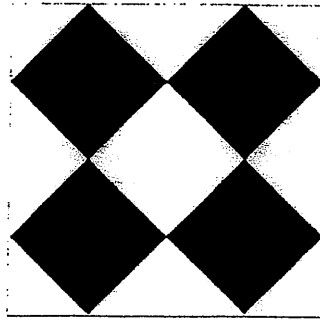
This signaled to the slaves—by the number of boxes and knots—the time to "box up" all one's belongings in preparation to escape.





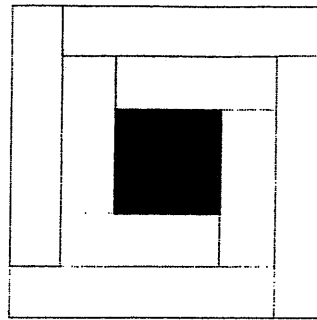
Monkey Wrench

Get ready! Gather the tools you'll need to build shelters, navigate the journey, or defend yourself along the way.



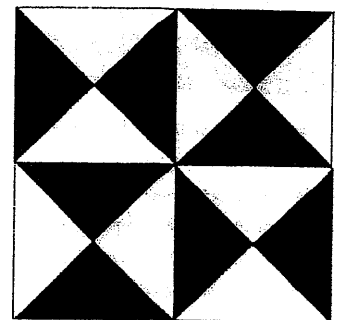
Crossroads

Keep going and travel to the crossroads in Cleveland, Ohio. Nicknamed "Hope", this vibrant Underground Railroad station, was the last stop where slaves would board a boat to Canada.



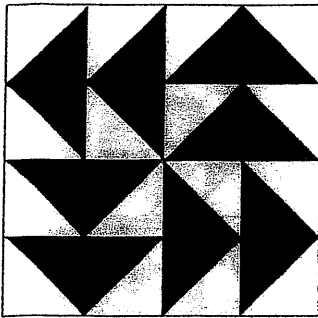
Log Cabin

You've reached a safe house. Congratulations you have found new friends who are friends of slaves.



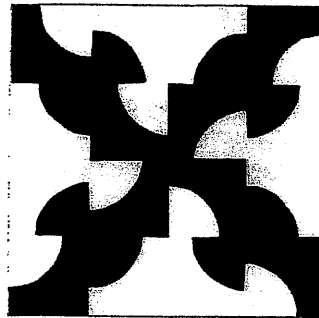
Bow Ties

You're looking pretty tattered. To disguise yourself as a freed slave, you'll need a change of clothes. The Bow Ties quilt block is a code to tell you someone will bring you nicer clothing.



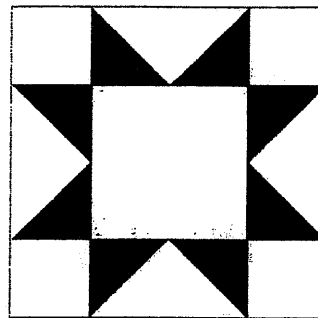
Flying Geese

Follow the migrating geese north to Canada (and freedom).



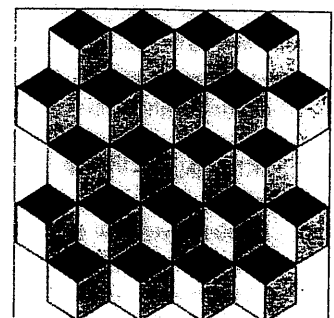
Drunkard's Path

Go back one space! This quilt block is a sign that slave hunters are near. Double back to elude them immediately!



North Star

Look to the skies to help you navigate the way. Follow the North Star to Canada.



Tumbling Blocks

The time has come to box up your belongings. Your escape will be happening soon!

Underground Railroad Secret Language

WEB LESSON - Myths and Codes of the Underground Railroad

HANDOUT 6

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD CODES

Much of the communication between freedom seekers and Underground Railroad operatives was coded language. This secretive communication was sometimes called the "grapevine telegraph." Many of the terms were railroad terms, since U.S. railroads were beginning to move west about the time the Underground Railroad became active.

TERMS

- ▶ **Abolitionist** — Person who demanded an immediate end to slavery.
- ▶ **Agent** — Coordinator, who plotted courses of escape and made contacts.
- ▶ **Baggage** — Fugitive slaves carried by Underground Railroad workers.
- ▶ **Bundles of wood** — Fugitives that were expected.
- ▶ **Canaan** — Canada.
- ▶ **Conductor** — Person who directly transported slaves.
- ▶ **Drinking Gourd** — Big Dipper and the North Star.
- ▶ **Flying bondsmen** — The number of escaping slaves.
- ▶ **Forwarding** — Taking slaves from station to station.
- ▶ **Freedom train** — The Underground Railroad.
- ▶ **French leave** — Secret departure.
- ▶ **Gospel train** — The Underground Railroad.
- ▶ **Heaven** — Canada, freedom.
- ▶ **Jumping off place** — Place of shelter for fugitives.
- ▶ **Load of potatoes** — Escaping slaves hidden under farm produce in a wagon.
- ▶ **Moses** — Harriet Tubman.
- ▶ **Operator** — Person who helped freedom seekers as a conductor or agent.
- ▶ **Parcel** — Fugitives that were expected.
- ▶ **Patter roller** — Bounty hunter hired to capture slaves.
- ▶ **Preachers** — Leaders of and spokespersons for the Underground Railroad.
- ▶ **Promised Land** — Canada.
- ▶ **River Jordan** — Ohio River.
- ▶ **Shepherds** — People who encouraged slaves to escape and escorted them.
- ▶ **Station** — Place of safety and temporary refuge, a safe house.
- ▶ **Station master** — Keeper or owner of a safe house.
- ▶ **Stockholder** — Someone who gave money, clothing or food to the Underground Railroad.

Myths and Codes of the Underground Railroad - WEB LESSON

PHRASES

- ▶ **The wind blows from the South today** — A warning that slave bounty hunters were nearby.
- ▶ **A friend with friends** — A password used to signal arrival of fugitives with an Underground Railroad conductor.
- ▶ **A friend of a friend sent me** — A password used by fugitives traveling alone to indicate they were sent by the Underground Railroad network.
- ▶ **When the sun comes back and the first quail calls** — Early spring, a particular time of year good for escaping.
- ▶ **The river bank makes a mighty good road** — A reminder that tracking dogs could not follow the scent of fugitives through the water.
- ▶ **The dead trees will show you the way** — A reminder that moss grows on the north side of dead trees, so if the North Star were not visible, they would know which way to walk.
- ▶ **Left foot, peg foot** — A visual clue for escapees left by an Underground Railroad worker famous for his wooden leg.
- ▶ **The river ends between two hills** — The Tombigbee River in Mississippi.
- ▶ **When the great big river meets the little river** — The Ohio River and its tributaries.
- ▶ **Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus** — Used to alert other slaves that an escape attempt was anticipated.

Do you use any "coded" language today?

What words or terms do you use and what do they mean?

Who do you communicate with using this language?

Where else is "coded" language used? In what situations? Who uses it?

①

Explanation of "Follow the Drinking Gourd"

When the sun comes back and the first quail calls,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is waiting for to carry you to freedom,
If you follow the Drinking Gourd.

"When the sun comes back" means winter and spring when the altitude of the sun at noon is higher each day. Quail are migratory bird wintering in the South. The Drinking Gourd is the Big Dipper. The old man is Peg Leg Joe. The verse tells slaves to leave in the winter and walk towards the Drinking Gourd. Eventually they will meet a guide who will escort them for the remainder of the trip. Most escapees had to cross the Ohio River which is too wide and too swift to swim. The Railroad struggled with the problem of how to get escapees across, and with experience, came to believe the best crossing time was winter. Then the river was frozen, and escapees could walk across on the ice. Since it took most escapees a year to travel from the South to the Ohio, the Railroad urged slaves to start their trip in winter in order to be at the Ohio the next winter.

The river bank makes a very good road,
The dead trees show you the way,
Left foot, peg foot, traveling on
Follow the Drinking Gourd.

This verse taught slaves to follow the bank of the Tombigbee River north looking for dead trees that were marked with drawings of a left foot and a peg foot. The markings distinguished the Tombigbee from other north-south rivers that flow into it.

The river ends between two hills,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
There's another river on the other side,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.

These words told the slaves that when they reached the headwaters of the Tombigbee, they were to continue north over the hills until they met another river. Then they were to travel north along the new river which is the Tennessee River. A number of the southern escape routes converged on the Tennessee

Where the great big river meets the little river,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is awaiting to carry you to freedom if you
follow the Drinking Gourd.

This verse told the slaves the Tennessee joined another river. They were to cross that river (which is the Ohio River), and on the north bank, meet a guide from the Underground Railroad.

② Wade In the Water

Harriet Tubman sang this spiritual as a warning to runaway slaves. To escaping slaves, the song told them to abandon the path and move into the water. By travelling along the water's edge or across a body of water, the slaves would throw chasing dogs and their keepers off the scent.

Lyrics:

Chorus:

Wade in the water,

Wade in the water children.

Wade in the water

God's gonna trouble the water

Who's all those children all dressed in Red?

God's gonna trouble the water.

Must be the ones that Moses led.

God's gonna trouble the water.

Chorus:

What are those children all dressed in White?

God's gonna trouble the water.

Must be the ones of the Israelites.

God's gonna trouble the water.

Chorus:

Who are these children all dressed in Blue?

God's gonna trouble the water.

Must be the ones that made it through.

God's gonna trouble the water.

Chorus: