

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

escape from slavery

on **Scholastic.com**

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/undergroundrailroad>

Experience a Dynamic Virtual Journey from Slavery to Freedom

Through a first-hand account of a runaway slave's journey, Scholastic.com challenges teachers and students alike to engage in all aspects of this vital chapter of American History, including life as a slave, the workings of the Underground Railroad, the lives of abolitionists like Harriet Tubman and the causes of the Civil War. This online unit also offers critical thinking and reflective writing opportunities, culminating with an assignment in which students imagine themselves as runaway slaves in 1860!

There are four "stops" on this journey, each exploring a different curriculum theme in American History.

On the Plantation: Life as Slave

<http://www.scholastic.com/ugrr/plantation>

This first hand-account of slavery takes students on the personal journey of Walter, a young man born into slavery in 19th century Virginia. This realistic depiction of his struggles against inhumane work and living conditions, combined with historical images and audio support offers a moving tale of courage and determination.

Escape! The Underground Railroad

<http://www.scholastic.com/ugrr/escape>

Students will engage in a dramatic narrative of an enslaved African American on the run. Through secret letter writing activities students will explore the hidden language and authentic coded messages used by abolitionists to communicate with one another in their efforts to transport slave fugitives across the North/South border.

Reaching Safety: Heroes for the Cause

http://www.scholastic.com/ugrr/reaching_safety

Drawing from an audio slide show featuring images, documents and interviews, students will learn about some of the best known abolitionists of the time including Harriet Tubman, Fredrick Douglass, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose tireless efforts made it possible for thousands of slaves to make it to freedom.

Reaching Freedom: Life in the North

http://www.scholastic.com/ugrr/reaching_freedom

Runaway slaves encountered many challenges despite their new found freedom in the North. Students will learn about the constant discrimination and dangers that faced many free slaves that settled in northern rural communities and big cities. Through interactive scenes, maps, and reflection activities students will explore differences between the North and South and learn about the causes of the Civil War.

Complete Teachers Guide
Turn around and use this unit in class today!

All resources are supported by comprehensive teaching guides with goals, lesson plans to teach Map Reading Skills, and Using Primary Resources, as well as ideas and assessment strategies for you to use right away.

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Extension Activities for Underground Railroad: Escape from Slavery

Utilize the following discussion topics to further the conversation

- Think of other times in history when doing what was right was in conflict with the laws of the time. Give examples such as the Civil Rights Movement, Gandhi, personal examples.
- Describe what freedom means to you?
- Who are the people in your lives today that exhibit great courage?

Draw Your Own Timeline & Maps

- Ask students to retell the story of Walter through creation of their own timeline of key events. Have students draw symbols to represent the key episodes on his journey.
- Have students chart their own course to freedom. Imagine each student as a slave from Kentucky and allow each to develop a route that will safely take them to the North.

Write About It

- Ask your students to write a letter or journal entry in the voice of a runaway slave that reached the North. Have them write about their dangerous journey, how they crossed the North/South border and share about what life is now like as a "free" person.
- Ask students to examine historical examples of slavery in other parts of the world. Assign a research project on a country that was affected by slavery aside from the United States.



The Underground Railroad comes alive for students through unparalleled resources:

- **Runaway slave's story:** A first-hand account of the journey, with **audio support**.
- **Interactive scenes:** featuring historic images, pop-up boxes to learn more about the time and place, and authentic quotes from people of the period.
- **Audio slide shows:** Essential background information supported by primary source images.
- **Engaging student activities** from secret letters to interactive maps.
- **Reflection activities:** Printable sheets with questions for reflection and critical thinking.

