



NATIONAL  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

# Discovering the Underground Railroad

## CAUTION!!

### COLORED PEOPLE OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

### KIDNAPPERS AND Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, Show them in every possible manner, as so many *HOLEYS* on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.

## ANTI-SLAVERY!

"NO UNION WITH SLAVEHOLDERS."

### A. T. FOSS

AND

### J. A. HOWLAND,

Agents respectively of the Mass. and American ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETIES,

Will speak at

**COME AND HEAR.**



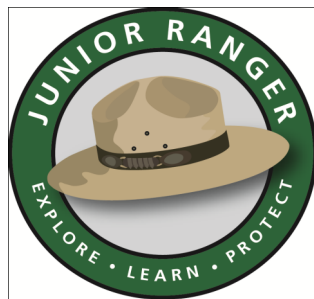
# Junior Ranger Activity Book

This book belongs to:

Parents and teachers are encouraged to talk to children about the Underground Railroad and the materials presented in this booklet.

After carefully reading through the information, test your knowledge of the Underground Railroad with the activities throughout the book. When you are done, ask yourself what you have learned about the people, places, and history of this unique yet difficult period of American history?

- Junior Rangers ages **5 to 6**, check here and complete at least **3** activities.
- Junior Rangers ages **7 to 10**, check here and complete at least **6** activities.
- Junior Rangers ages **10 and older**, check here and complete **10** activities.



To receive your **Junior Ranger Badge**, complete the activities and then send the booklet to our Omaha office at the address below. A ranger will go over your answers and then return your booklet along with an official Junior Ranger Badge for your efforts. Please include your name, age, and mailing address where you would like your Junior Ranger Badge to be sent.

**National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102**

For additional information on the Underground Railroad, please visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/ugrr>

This booklet was produced by the National Park Service Southeast Region, Atlanta, Georgia

# To Be Free

Write about what "Freedom" means to you.



# Slavery and the Importance of the Underground Railroad

“To be a slave. To be owned by another person, as a car, house, or table is owned. To live as a piece of property that could be sold -- a child sold from its mother, a wife from her husband.”

Julius Lester, author of “To Be a Slave”



The common thread binding all enslaved people was the fact that they had no legal rights.

*Slaves were considered property which could be bought and sold at anytime.*

*Slaves could not own property.*

*By law, it was illegal to teach a slave to read and write.*

*Slaves could not legally marry.*

*Slaves had no rights over their children.*

*Slaves could not worship as they chose.*

*Slaves could not come and go as they chose to do so.*

The Underground Railroad provided the means by which an enslaved person could reach his/her dream of freedom and all the possibilities that came with it.

## What was the Underground Railroad?

The “Underground Railroad” is not actually a train operating along hidden railroad tracks. Instead, it refers to an idea. The Underground Railroad refers to the efforts of enslaved African Americans to gain their freedom through escape and flight—and the assistance of people who opposed slavery and willingly chose to help them to escape—through the end of the U.S. Civil War.

Enslaved African Americans chose to escape because they desired their freedom, regardless of whether their slave master was nice or mean. Wherever slavery existed, enslaved persons escaped, at first, to maroon communities in rugged terrain away from settled areas, and later across state and international borders. Enslaved African Americans who chose to resist slavery by running away were called fugitive slaves, but can more accurately be called **Freedom Seekers**.

The risks during escape were great and the consequences if caught were severe, not only for Freedom Seekers, but for anyone providing them assistance.

# Day-to-Day Life

Enslaved people endured many hardships as the “property” of another person:

*Many slaves worked from sunrise till sunset, resting only during meal times.*

*Slaves received no pay.*

*Slaves could not go anywhere without permission from the “master”.*

*Slave children began working usually by six years old.*

*Slaves were punished often for even the simplest of reasons.*

*Slaves often had little to eat and few clothes to wear.*

*Slaves were not allowed to choose their own job.*

Though restricted and degraded in every way, the undying hope for freedom and the spirit and involvement of the extended family became the survival tool for many enslaved persons. It was also this very family which made the decision to run away a difficult one. Escaping did not guarantee freedom, but it often did mean leaving behind family and friends.

## Draw or Write:

**Two ways that your life is different from that of an enslaved person.**

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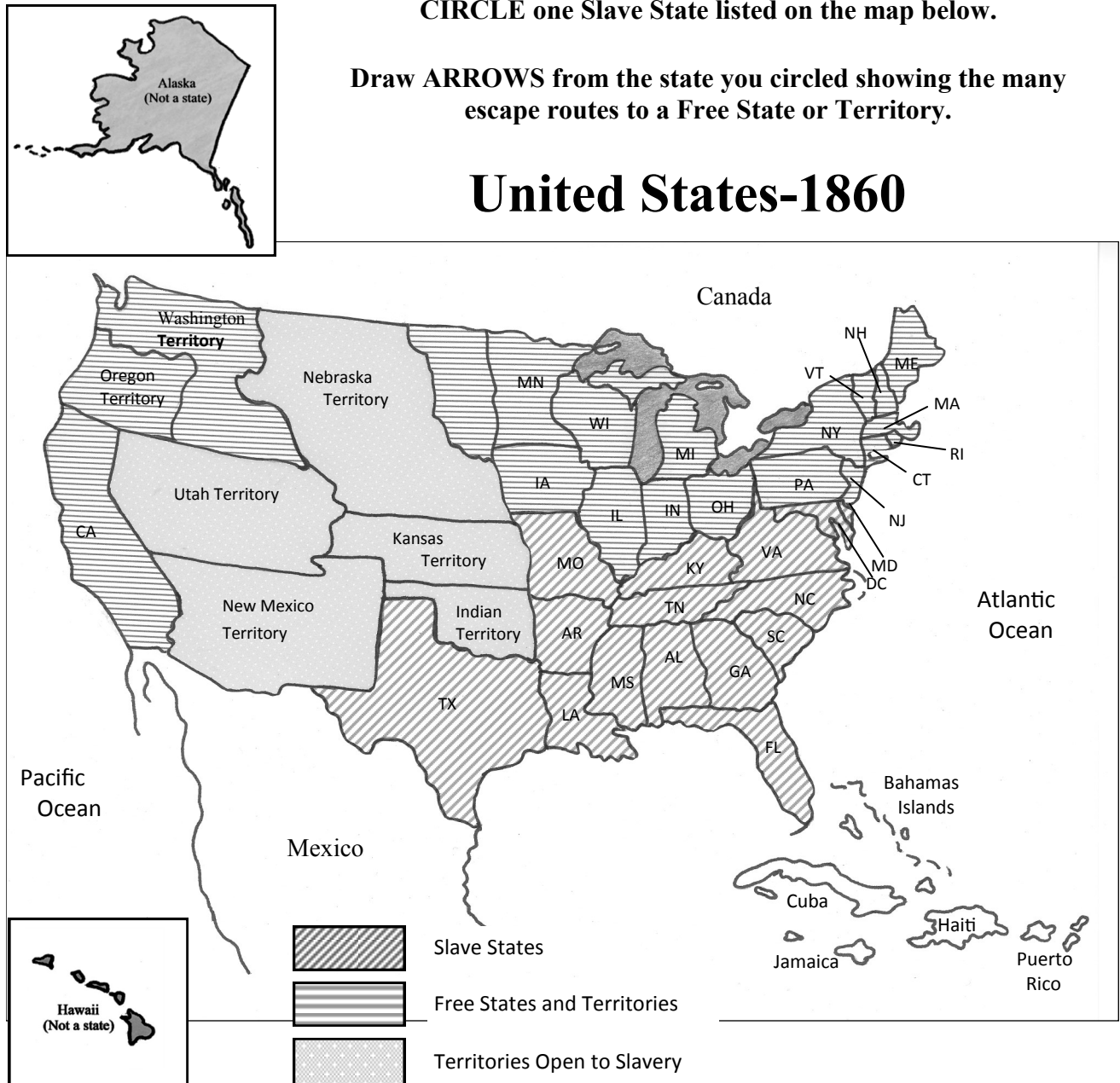
# Travel Routes

Escape routes over land spread out like a tangled web throughout the United States, into Canada, and Mexico. Other routes were traveled by water to northern coastal cities, south towards the Caribbean, or west towards the coast of California, Alaska or Hawaii.

**CIRCLE one Slave State listed on the map below.**

**Draw ARROWS from the state you circled showing the many escape routes to a Free State or Territory.**

## United States-1860



Although many states and territories had banned slavery by 1860, freedom seekers who had escaped to free states and territories could be captured by slave catchers and returned to slavery because of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. After the 1850 Act, many freedom seekers in free states were forced to continue their escape to countries outside the United States.

**Put a STAR in the state where you live.**

**Draw an ARROW of the route you would use to escape slavery after 1850.**

# Freedom Seekers of the Underground Railroad



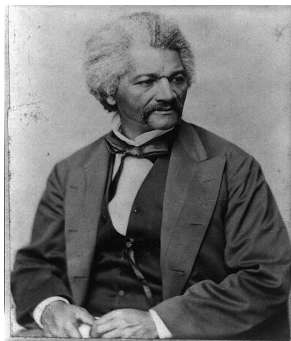
**Bridget “Biddy” Mason** was brought to California by her owner, John Smith, in 1851. Because California was a free state, Smith tried to convince his slaves that they would be free if they moved to Texas (a slave state). Biddy doubted his truthfulness and sought help from the local free black community. Smith’s slaves were placed in protective custody and in 1856, a judge ruled in favor of Biddy, and she and her children were freed.

**Harry Grimes** was born into slavery in North Carolina and sold for the first time at the age of 3. Though his early years of bondage were not easy, it was his third ruthless and violent master who led to Harry’s escape. On this occasion, his master felt that Harry had not done enough work and after a violent confrontation, set the dogs after him. Fortunately, Harry had befriended the dogs and they would not follow him, thus allowing time to escape. He sought refuge within the woods, where he lived for the next 7 months in a hollow poplar tree. Harry spent a couple more months living in a cave before reaching freedom.



**Eliza Harris** was enslaved on a plantation near Dover, Kentucky, 10 miles south of the Ohio River, when she learned that she was to be sold to another plantation. Hoping to find the Ohio River frozen, Eliza took her youngest child and escaped. Upon reaching the river the next morning, she found that the ice on the river had broken up. Hearing the dogs on her trail, Eliza and her child took a final chance and jumping from ice flow to ice flow they made their way across the river and disappeared along the Underground Railroad.

**William and Ellen Craft**, two slaves from Savannah, Georgia made their remarkable escape to Philadelphia in plain view by steamer and railroad. Ellen, who was light skinned, disguised herself as a young gentleman in ill health seeking medical treatment. Her husband William traveled as the attentive slave to his “master”. Overcoming many obstacles along the way, William and Ellen arrived in Philadelphia where they were fed, clothed and housed by a Quaker family before moving on to Boston and then finally to England.



**Frederick Douglass** was born into slavery in Maryland. As an enslaved servant in Baltimore, the lady of the house secretly began to teach Frederick to read and write. When his “master” found out and forbid it, Frederick taught himself. Upon his owner’s death, he was sent to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to work in the fields. By age 21, Frederick escaped to New York disguised as a sailor. Over the years, he made numerous speeches against slavery and became a nationally known abolitionist and champion of women’s rights. In 1845, Frederick published *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* and in 1847 began publishing his newspaper *The North Star*.

For more stories, visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/ugrr>

# Freedom Seekers in the U.S. Civil War

Many African Americans who escaped slavery joined the Union Army and Navy during the Civil War to fight against the Confederate States and to permanently abolish slavery. African American troops in the Union Army were called **United States Colored Troops** or USCTs.



- **Elijah Marrs**—Enslaved in Shelby County, Kentucky, Marrs escaped to Louisville with a total of 27 men. He then enlisted in the 12<sup>th</sup> US Colored Heavy Artillery at Camp Nelson on September 1864. In his memoirs Marrs wrote: "...by eight o'clock we were in the recruiting office in the city of Louisville. ...By twelve o'clock the owner of every man of us was in the city hunting his slaves, but we had all enlisted save one boy who was considered too young."
- **William Henry Singleton**—Singleton made several runaway attempts. Before the successful escape, he became an enslaved servant to a Confederate officer in North Carolina and learned a lot of information about the Confederate troop movements. Singleton eventually ran away to New Bern and found a job as servant to Union Colonel Leggett of the 19<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Regiment. Using the information he learned during his time as a Confederate army servant, Singleton guided Union troops to attack the Confederates at Wives Fork, North Carolina. He next helped to form 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Colored Troops, later called 35<sup>th</sup> USCT.
- **Samuel Bolton [Ballton]**—Born in 1838, Bolton worked in the plantation fields. He escaped to the Union army in Fredericksburg, Virginia, while working on the Virginia Central Railroad for his master. As Union "contraband", Bolton became a cook for the 6th Wisconsin Regiment. After earning money, he returned twice to the plantation to rescue his wife. On his first trip, Bolton could not escape with her but did take three others with him. On the second try, he led his wife and three more to Fredericksburg. Bolton then enlisted in the Union Army in Boston in 1864.



# Freedom Bag

Imagine that you are an enslaved person getting ready for your escape to freedom. The journey may be long and hard. You will need supplies to make a successful escape.

**CIRCLE** the items you will take with you. Please explain why you chose these items.

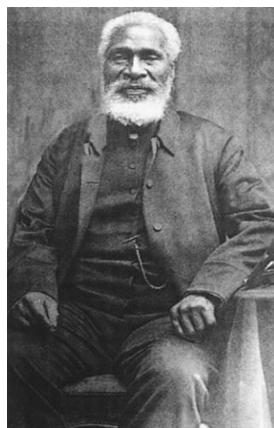


Can you name anything else you might want to take along? \_\_\_\_\_

# “Conductors” Along the Underground Railroad

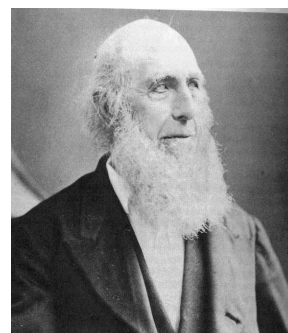
The history of the Underground Railroad is a story of human courage, endurance and the belief of individual freedom. Due to the secretive nature of the railroad, it is unknown just how many freedom seekers attempted to escape or achieved a new life in freedom. Nor is it possible to document all of those individuals—sometimes called by the code name **Conductors**—who opposed slavery and risked their lives and well-being to assist freedom seekers in their journey to freedom. In fact, many freedom seekers became conductors too, once they escaped slavery. Here are stories of a few conductors along the Underground Railroad.

**Harriet Tubman** was born into slavery in Maryland. After learning that she was to be sold and separated from her husband, Harriet made her escape to freedom. Despite the high reward for her capture, she returned south numerous times and assisted many slaves to freedom. During the Civil War she served as a nurse, spy and scout for the Union Army. Tubman was known as one of the greatest “conductors” of the Underground Railroad.



**Josiah Henson** was born a slave in Charles County, Maryland. As a boy, Henson was sold to a farmer in Montgomery County, Maryland. As an adult, he was trusted enough by his owner to supervise other enslaved persons. In 1830, Henson used his new position to escape slavery with his wife and four children. They travelled the Underground Railroad by way of the Niagara River to Ontario. Henson worked on farms in Fort Erie and Waterloo to support his family. In 1834, Henson and several friends organized a black settlement on rented land that exported black walnut lumber to the U.S. and Britain.

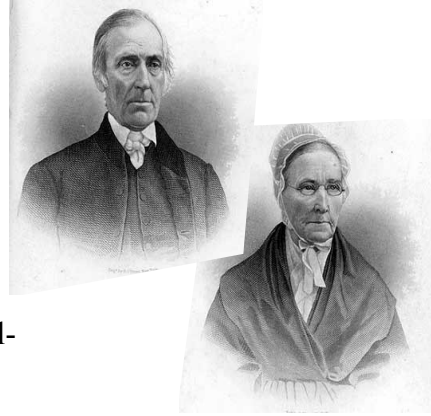
**Captain Jonathan Walker** was an abolitionist in Pensacola, Florida. In 1844, he attempted to rescue 7 slaves by transporting them across the ocean to the Bahamas. Due to unfortunate circumstances, Walker was caught, convicted and branded on the hand S.S. for “slave stealer”. He was jailed for 11 months until northern abolitionists provided payment for his release.



For more stories, visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/ugrr>

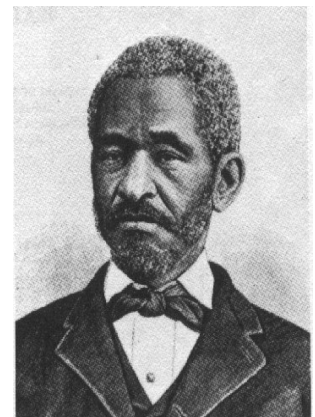
# “Conductors” Along the Underground Railroad

**Levi and Catharine Coffin** were Quakers, a religious order that strongly opposed the institution of slavery. Originally from North Carolina, the couple moved to Newport, Indiana in the early 1820s. During the 20 years they lived in Indiana, they provided a safe haven for over 2,000 freedom seekers. Of all the slaves that they assisted, none of them failed to reach freedom. Levi was often referred to as the “President of the Underground Railroad.”



**William Still** was born in Burlington County, New Jersey to former slaves. After working on his father’s farm until age 20, Still left home and moved to Philadelphia in 1844 where he worked as a handyman. In 1847, he worked for the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society office doing janitorial work, sorting mail, and assisting the society’s executive director. During his time in Pennsylvania, Still recorded and maintained the accounts of assisting nearly 900 fugitive slaves. In 1872, he used these records to write a detailed and authentic book titled, *The Underground Railroad*.

**Lewis Hayden** was born into slavery in Lexington, Kentucky in 1811. During 1844, Hayden escaped with his wife Harriet and son. Along the way, they were aided by Rev. Calvin Fairbanks, a white Methodist minister. Hayden was successful in his flight to freedom and became a prominent abolitionist that assisted many other enslaved people to freedom. In 1844, Fairbanks was captured, tried and sentenced to 15 years for aiding and abetting fugitive slaves. In 1849, Hayden raised \$600 as “ransom” payment for Fairbanks’ release.



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# Safe Refuge

Hiding places along the “Underground Railroad” varied as much as the escape routes. Safe-houses, churches, schools, businesses, as well as natural areas such as swamps, bayous, mountains, and waterways provided much needed protection throughout their journey. Freedom seekers sometimes escaped and found refuge with various American Indian tribes. For example, those freedom seekers traveling south towards the Spanish Territory of Florida found safety and protection within the Seminole Indian Nation.

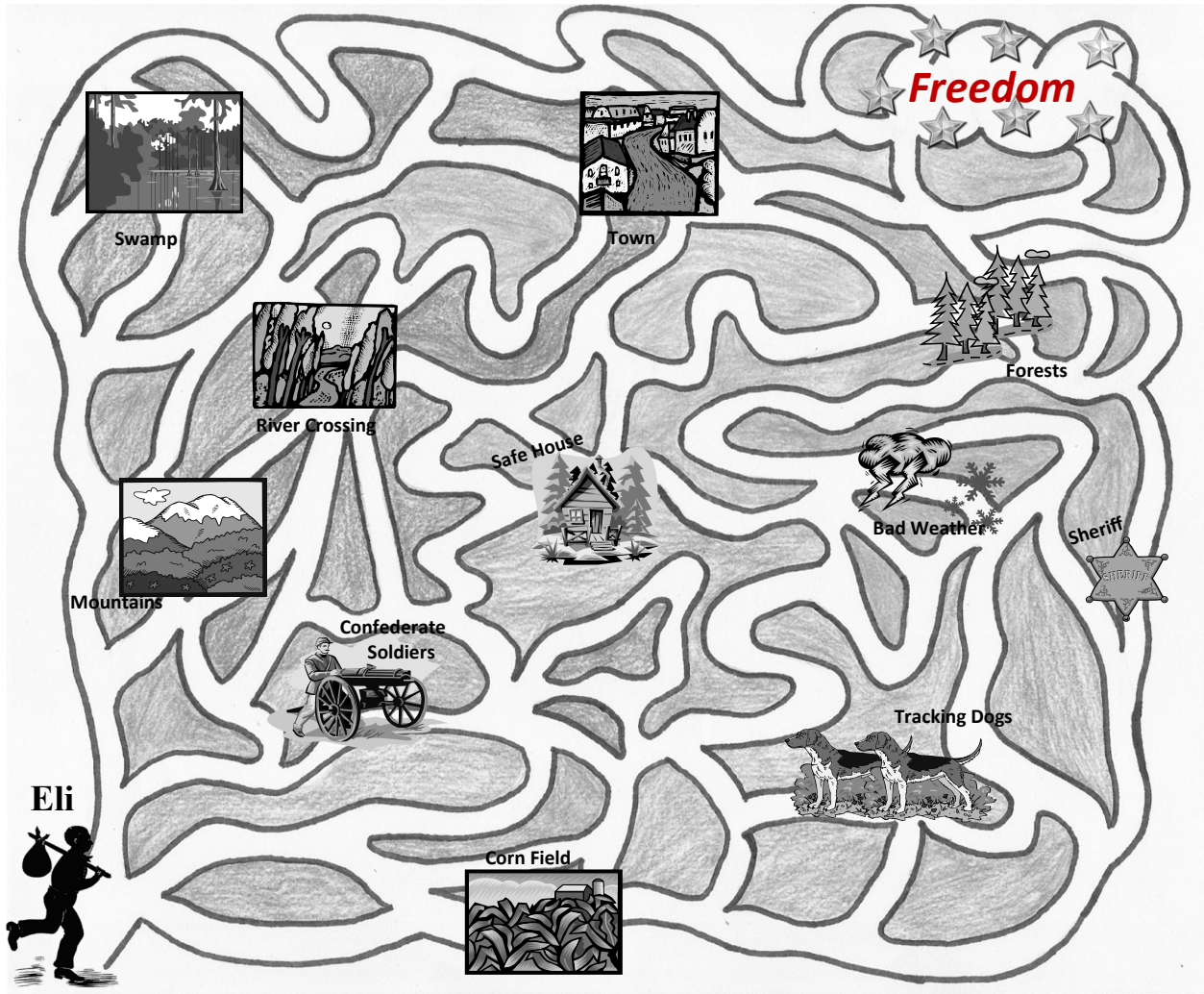
**CIRCLE** places that might be a good hiding place for a freedom seeker.



# Freedom Line

Draw a route that our Freedom Seeker Eli can take to safely reach Freedom.

Remember, this is a secret journey and there are many dangers along the way. *Read the stories of successful Freedom Seekers and Conductors on pages 5, 6, 8, and 9 to help you find your way.*



Name 2 dangers that might stop Eli from reaching Freedom. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Name 2 safe places for Eli to hide. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Underground Railroad Highlights

## 1693

Second edict of Spain granted sanctuary and freedom to escaped slaves from the British colonies (North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia) who reach the Spanish territory of Florida.

## 1738

Fort Mose (Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose) established in St. Augustine, Florida and becomes the first European-sanctioned settlement of African-American freedom seekers in North America.

## 1817

U.S. Federal troops waged a war against Seminole Indians and freedom seekers in Florida..

## 1820

Levi Coffin began to establish long distance escape routes from North Carolina to Indiana.

## 1830s

As the railroads became popular and spread north across the states, railroad terms such as “conductors” became the coded language of the Underground Railroad.

## 1833

American Anti-Slavery Society was founded in Philadelphia.

## 1840s

Ripley, Ohio, along the Ohio River, becomes one of the most active centers of Underground Railroad activity.

## 1841

Josiah Henson-a fugitive slave from Maryland-established the Dawn Institute in Chatham Ontario, Canada whereby freedom seekers learned trades and to adjust to free society.

## 1850 Fugitive Slave Act

This Act permitted slaveholders to recapture and return escaped slaves to their masters. Freedom seekers who had fled to free states in the north and western territories were forced to continue their freedom journey to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Europe.

## 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act

This Act further divided the nation on the issue of slavery and helped to lead to the Civil War. The violent fight between pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces in “Bleeding” Kansas increased the tension that already existed in the United States.

# Underground Railroad Highlights

## 1856

Dred Scott, an Illinois Freedom Seeker, sued to overturn the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, but lost his case.

In the Dred Scott Decision, the U.S. Supreme Court observed that American blacks were not citizens of the United States and “might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery.”

## 1861

In February, southern slave states formed the Confederate States of America and declared their secession from the United States of America

In April, South Carolina Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter and the Civil War began.

Union General Benjamin F. Butler declared escaped slaves at Fort Monroe, Virginia to be “contraband” and refused to return these freedom seekers to Confederate slaveholders.

Thousands of enslaved African Americans began escaping to the Union Army seeking freedom as Contraband.

## 1863 Emancipation Proclamation

President Lincoln issued a statement that “all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and hence forward shall be free.” Enslaved people in states and territories under Union Army control (West Virginia, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, and the District of Columbia) were not declared free and they remained in slavery.

The Emancipation Proclamation did not actually free any slave, but it did change the course of the war. The Union Army and Navy officially accepted blacks into their ranks, and by the end of the war, approximately 209,000 black soldiers and sailors fought for the Union and for freedom.

## 1865 13th Amendment

This amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery throughout the United States and the Civil War ends.

Newly freed African Americans began to vote and hold elected offices in the U.S. Congress and state government. Congress establishes the Freedmen’s Bureau to aid African Americans.

## 1868 14th Amendment

This amendment to the U.S. Constitution required states to provide equal protection to protect civil rights of former slaves.

## 1870 15th Amendment

This amendment to the US. Constitution granted voting rights to all men regardless of race.

# Road to Freedom

F Y X M B U H Z C R H R S D N A X M D O  
X R J Z V N H E Z T X W M C B D Y A T E  
E W E Z H I S H D Q A C Q E F B O Y S B  
F Y H E K O S I C M P U V C X R X I X L  
O C P H D N C S P T A L Y A L I U Z O L  
R U T I B O L T T K N Z A I D G C L O S  
T A O R L Z M O E M S E A N S I B O H M  
S N A E B B I R A C J R M I T P R P A V  
U K K F K O S Y K Z D D D D P A D O N L  
M R T J W N Q Z U N Z V O S N P T D L L  
T A S E C R E T U X P Q X W O E G I R F  
E W Z P Q K F O N A Z N P O Q I M I O C  
R L R E V I R A G N O V A W A D A A R N  
P I B B L G O L L R X T N Q D H X I P E  
R V M X R F C T T S E F I F A D B W P V  
Y I X E Y B E H R I V D L N N D T A C G  
B C D A N O S O R A U J H C A C C B M X  
O N A W G T E N S L A V E D C S G B U R  
U U G V A Y R E V A L S Y D E A O X F L  
Q D E R T C O N F E D E R A T E Y N I J

**Amendment**

**Canada**

**Caribbean**

**Civil War**

**Confederate**

**Disguise**

**Enslaved**

**Escape**

**Florida**

**Fort Sumter**

**Freedom**

**History**

**Mexico**

**North Star**

**Plantation**

**Quakers**

**River**

**Secret**

**Slavery**

**Swamp**

**Underground Railroad**

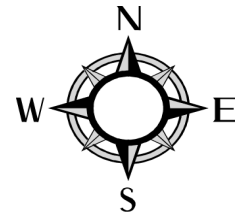
**Union**





# Did You Know...?

On rainy, cloudy nights, freedom seekers often would find their way north by feeling for moss which is found on the northern side of tree trunks. On clear nights they could follow the Big Dipper or North Star.



Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Robert Wallcut	1	2	2	7						
John Williams	1	2	2	1						
John Williams	0	2	2	5						
George Smith	2	2	2	1						
Albany Hammond	2	2	6							

The first U.S. Census was completed in 1790. At this time there were approximately 700,000 enslaved people in a nation of 3.9 million people.

The Underground Railroad is not actually a train that runs along hidden tracks. It's an idea. Many code words used to identify escape activities, such as the term "conductor," and even the name "Underground Railroad" came about in the early 1830s with the popularity of the Steam Engine Railroad.



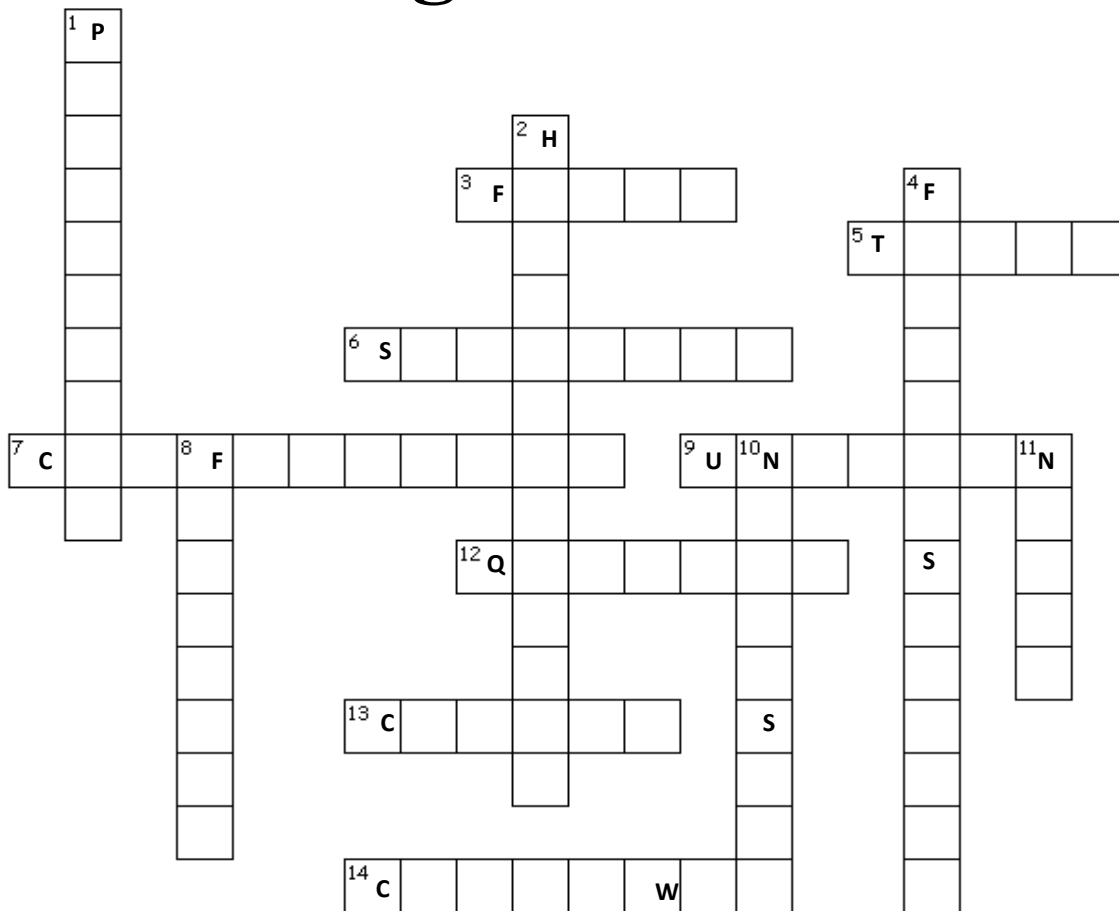
Though all enslaved people desired their freedom, not all took the risks involved and escaped. For those who decided to stay, community relationships and religious life became their survival tools. In addition, many enslaved persons fought against slavery with work slowdowns, sabotage and sickness.

By the end of the Civil War, there were almost 209,000 black soldiers and sailors who chose to fight with the Union and ultimately win their freedom. These army units were called United States Colored Troops or USCTs.



Some of the best hiding places for freedom seekers were not hidden at all but out in the open. Some of the clever disguises included men dressing themselves as women, and women as men. In cities along the coast, freedom seekers may even have dressed as sailors. Or some, like Henry "Box" Brown, had themselves shipped in crates to free states. Others traveled through town carrying tools as though they were going to work or pretending to deliver messages and goods for their masters.

# Underground Railroad



## ACROSS

3. The “Underground Railroad” was a real railroad. “True” or “False”
5. A slave had no legal rights. “Truth” or “False”
6. Name an Indian Tribe that offered refuge to escaping slaves.
7. Southern states were referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_ states during the Civil War.
9. The actual number of slaves who found freedom is \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Name a group of people that were very active in helping slaves to escape.
13. A destination to the north that many escaping slaves traveled to.
14. What war took place during the time of the Underground Railroad?

## DOWN

1. A place where many slaves worked in the fields was called a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Name a famous “conductor” of the Underground Railroad.
4. Escaping slaves were called \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In 1850, the \_\_\_\_\_ Slave Act was passed.
10. When traveling at night, runaway slaves would follow the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Escaping slaves traveled mostly at \_\_\_\_\_.

# Journal Entry

**Imagine that you and your family are escaping to freedom along the Underground Railroad.**

**Write a short entry about your journey.**

How did you travel, where did you go, and did anybody help you along the way? What type of difficulties did you have? Remember, your travels are a secret and you need to be clever so you don't get caught!

*Read the stories of successful Freedom Seekers and Conductors on pages 5, 6, 8, and 9 to help you get ideas.*



# What is the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program?

Recognizing that all human beings embrace the right to self-determination and freedom from oppression, the Underground Railroad sought to address the injustices of slavery and make freedom a reality in the United States.

Mandated by Public Law 105-203 in 1998, the National Park Service commemorates and preserves this history through the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. The program educates the public about the importance of the Underground Railroad in the eradication of slavery, its relevance in fostering the spirit of racial harmony and national reconciliation, and the evolution of our national civil rights movement.

The National Park Service, through shared leadership with local, state and federal entities, as well as interested individuals and organizations, will:

- ⇒ Promote programs and partnerships to commemorate
- ⇒ Preserve sites and other resources associated with, and
- ⇒ Educate the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad.

## How can I get Involved?

Individuals, organizations, state and local governments and federal agencies are invited to nominate sites, programs and facilities with a verifiable association with the Underground Railroad to the Network to Freedom. In addition, the public can visit most of the sites and facilities, and participate in the educational programs that are members of the Network to Freedom.

Please consult the Network to Freedom website for further information,

<http://www.nps.gov/ugrr>



NATIONAL  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

# Underground Railroad

*This certifies that*

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Has shown a willingness and interest to learn more about the history surrounding the Underground Railroad and has successfully completed the activities necessary to become a



## *Junior Ranger*



NATIONAL  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

### **Junior Ranger Pledge**

I promise to discover all I can about the Underground Railroad and to share my discoveries with others.

I will do my part to help preserve the history of the Underground Railroad and carry on the legacy of not only enslaved people and freedom seekers, but also all those who fought hard for freedom throughout the United States.

### **Junior Ranger Motto**

“Explore, Learn, Protect: Be A Junior Ranger.”

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Official

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Date