Underground Railroad

This certifies that

_____

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

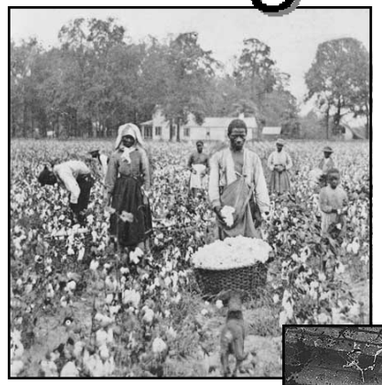
Junior Ranger Pledge:

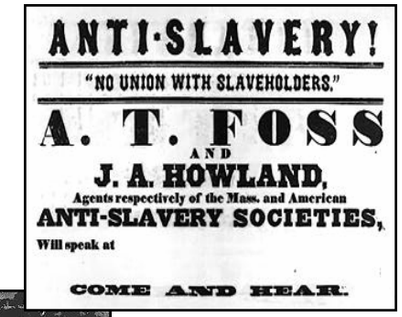
I promise to discover all I can about the Underground Railroad and to share my discoveries with others.

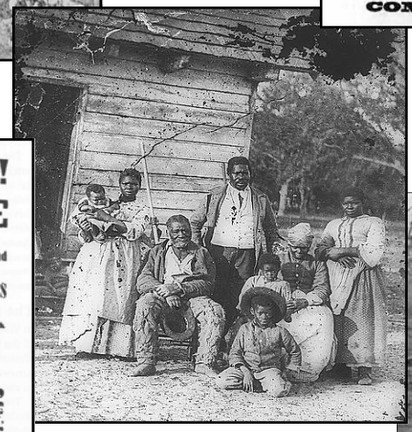
I will do my part to help preserve the history of the Underground Railroad and carry on the legacy of not only those enslaved people but also those who fought hard for freedom throughout the United States.

Official _____ Date _____

Discovering the Underground Railroad







This Book Belongs to: _____

Junior Ranger Activity Book

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

After carefully reading through the information, test your knowledge of the Underground Railroad. There are many 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?

For additional information on the Underground Railroad, please visit our website at: **nps.gov/ugrr**

Junior Rangers **5** to **6** years complete at least **3** activities.

Junior Rangers **7** to **10** complete at least **6** activities.

Junior Rangers **10 and older** complete **10** activities.

NATIONAL
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

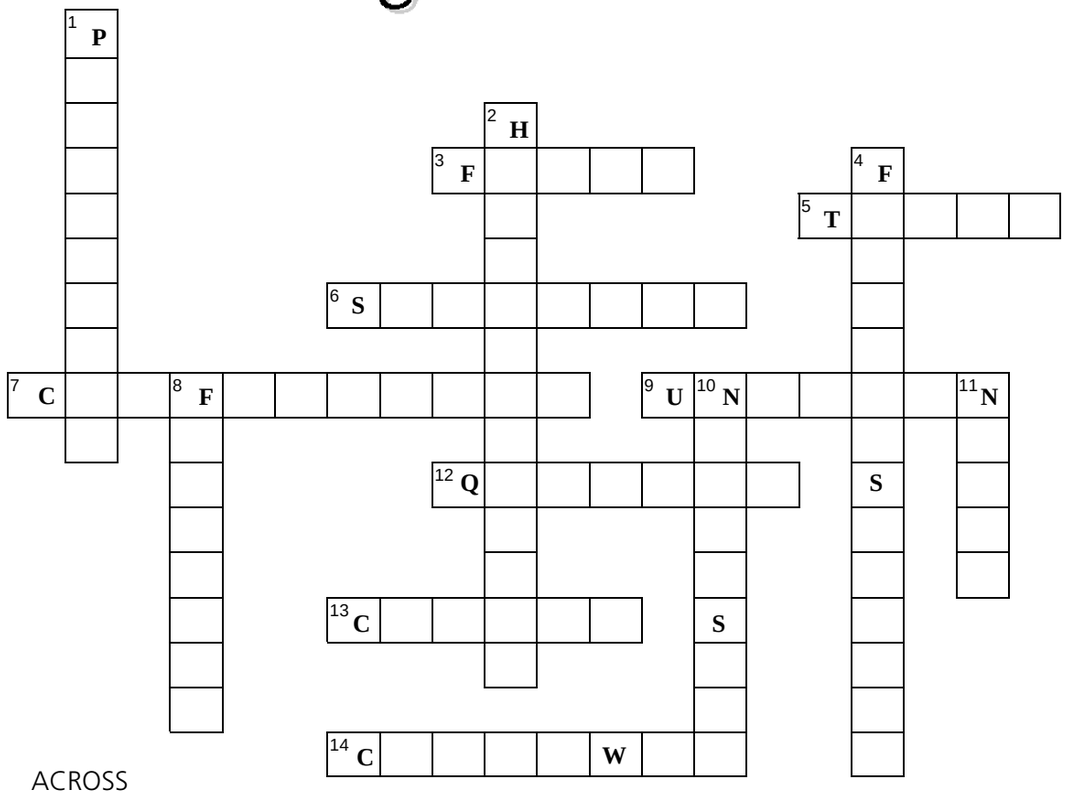
To receive your Junior Ranger Badge, complete the activities and then send the booklet to our Omaha office. A ranger will go over your answers and then return your booklet along with an official Junior Ranger Badge for your efforts.

For additional copies, please contact:

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

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

Underground Railroad



ACROSS
3. The "Underground Railroad" was a real railroad. "Truth" 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 _____.

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

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 slaves 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.

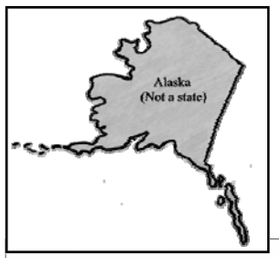
The Underground Railroad provided the means by which the slave could reach his/her dream of freedom and all the possibilities that came with it.

What was the Underground Railroad?

The term "Underground Railroad" is not what the name suggests. Instead, it refers to an idea or image. Just like a train on the tracks, traveling from station to station, the "Underground Railroad" represented the continuous movement of the escaping slave traveling to freedom. As the tracks support the train, it was the combined efforts of not only the enslaved African-American wishing to gain their freedom, but also those people, both black and white, who opposed slavery and willingly chose to help that made the "Underground Railroad" a success. The risks were great and consequences if caught were severe, not only for those escaping, but for anyone providing assistance.

Travel Routes

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



Draw arrows on the map below showing the many routes that escaping slaves may have taken.

United States - 1860

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 hide, did anybody help you along the way? What types of difficulties did you have? Remember, your travels are a secret and you need to be clever so you don't get caught.

Glossary of Terms

Match the numbers with the letters to find the answer.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

A person who was against slavery is called an...

1	2	15	12	9	20	9	15	14	9	19	20

To be free from confinement (i.e. slavery) is to be...

5	13	1	14	3	9	16	1	20	5	4

A person running away from slavery is called a...

6	18	5	5	4	15	13		19	5	5	11	5	18

A statement that formally changes or alters the U.S. Constitution is called an ...

1	13	5	14	4	13	5	14	20

The term "_____" refers to a person held in **<u>control</u>** as human property of another person.

19	12	1	22	5

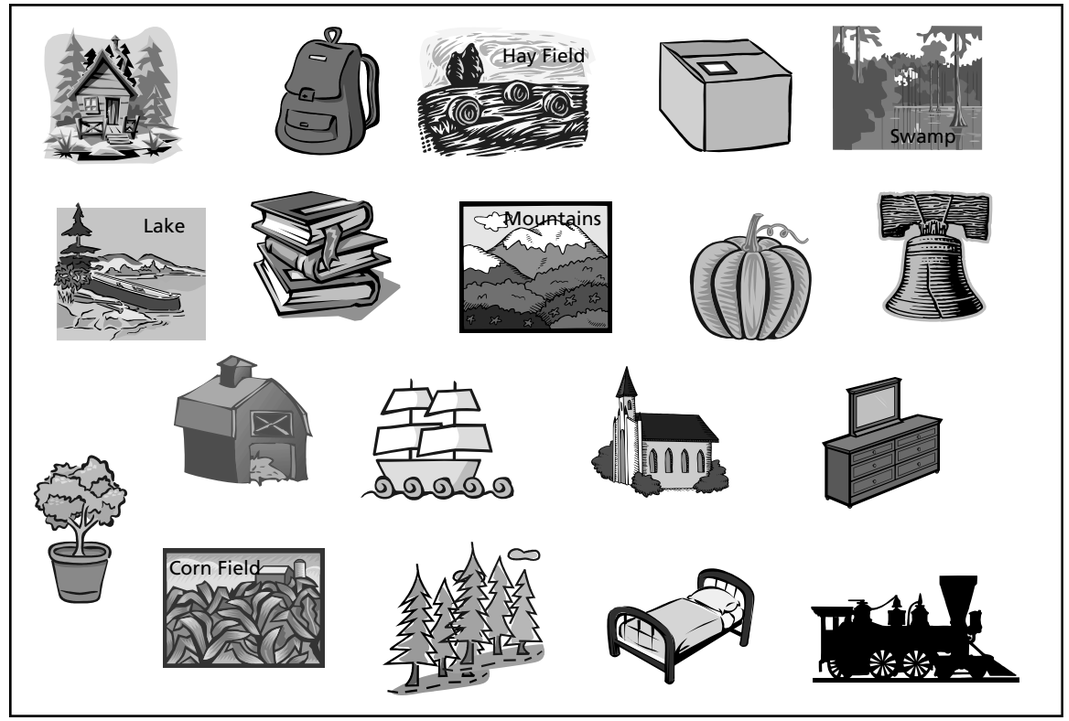
The term "_____" refers to free people that were **<u>forced</u>** into slavery.

5	14	19	12	1	22	5	4

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. For those slaves traveling south towards the Spanish Territories of Florida, safety and protection was also found within the Seminole Indian Nation.

Circle places that might be a good hiding place for an escaping slave.



Day to Day Life

There were many hardships that the slave had to endure:

Many slaves worked from sunup 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.

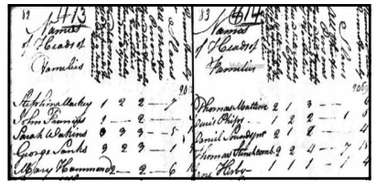
Slaves were not allowed to choose their own job.

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

Draw or Write,
two ways that your life is different from that of a slave.

Did You Know?

On rainy, cloudy nights, escaping slaves 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.



The first U.S. Census was completed in1790. At this time there were approximately 700,000 enslaved people in a nation of 3.9 million people.

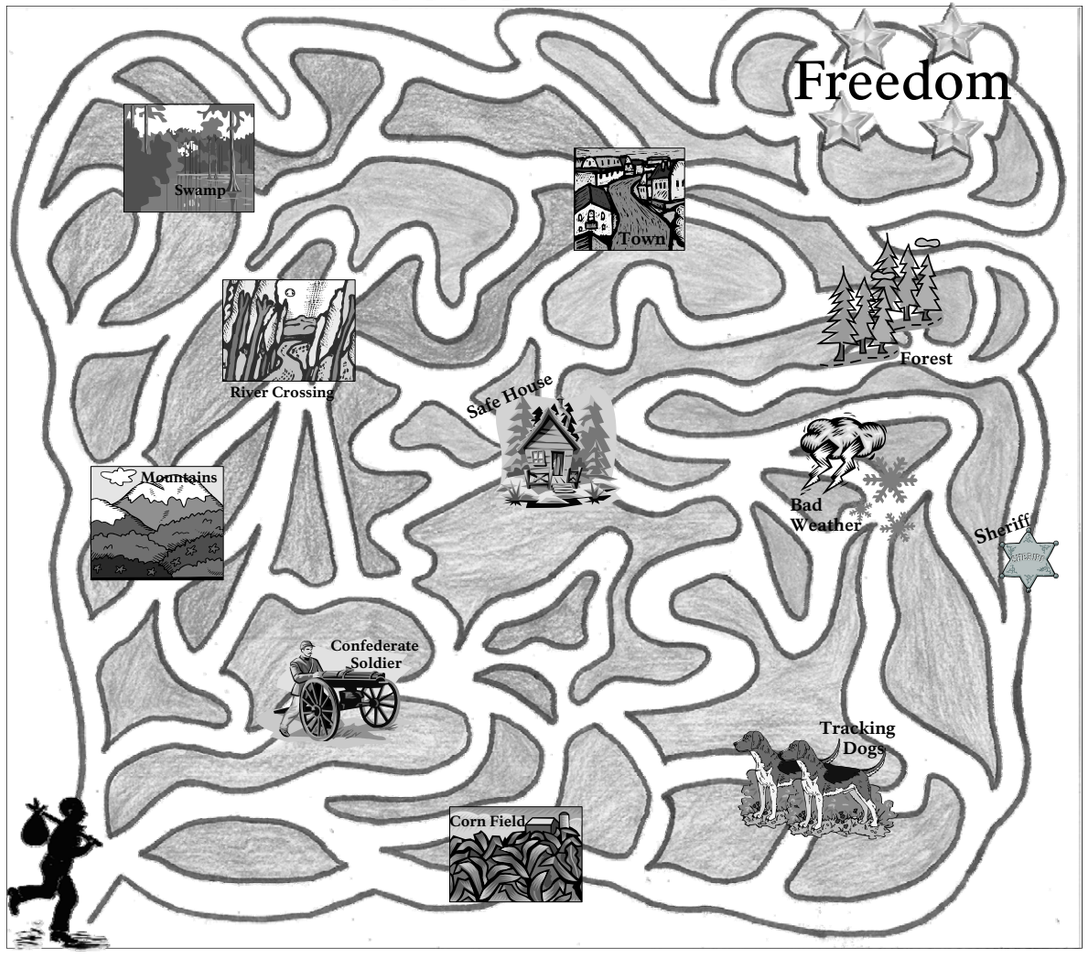
It might be suggested that many codes and even the name "Underground Railroad" came about in the early 1830s with the popularity of the Steam Engine Railroad.

Though all enslaved people surely desired their freedom, not all took the risks involved and escaped. For those who choose to stay, many fought slavery with work slowdowns, sabotage and sickness.

By the end of the Civil War, there were almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors who chose to fight with the Union and ultimately win their freedom.

Some of the best hiding places for escaping slaves 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, they may even have dressed as sailors. Others traveled through town carrying tools as though they were going to work or pretending to deliver messages and goods for their masters.

Freedom Line



Can you help Eli ? Remember, this is a secret journey and there are many dangers along the way.

Can you name 2 dangers? Why?

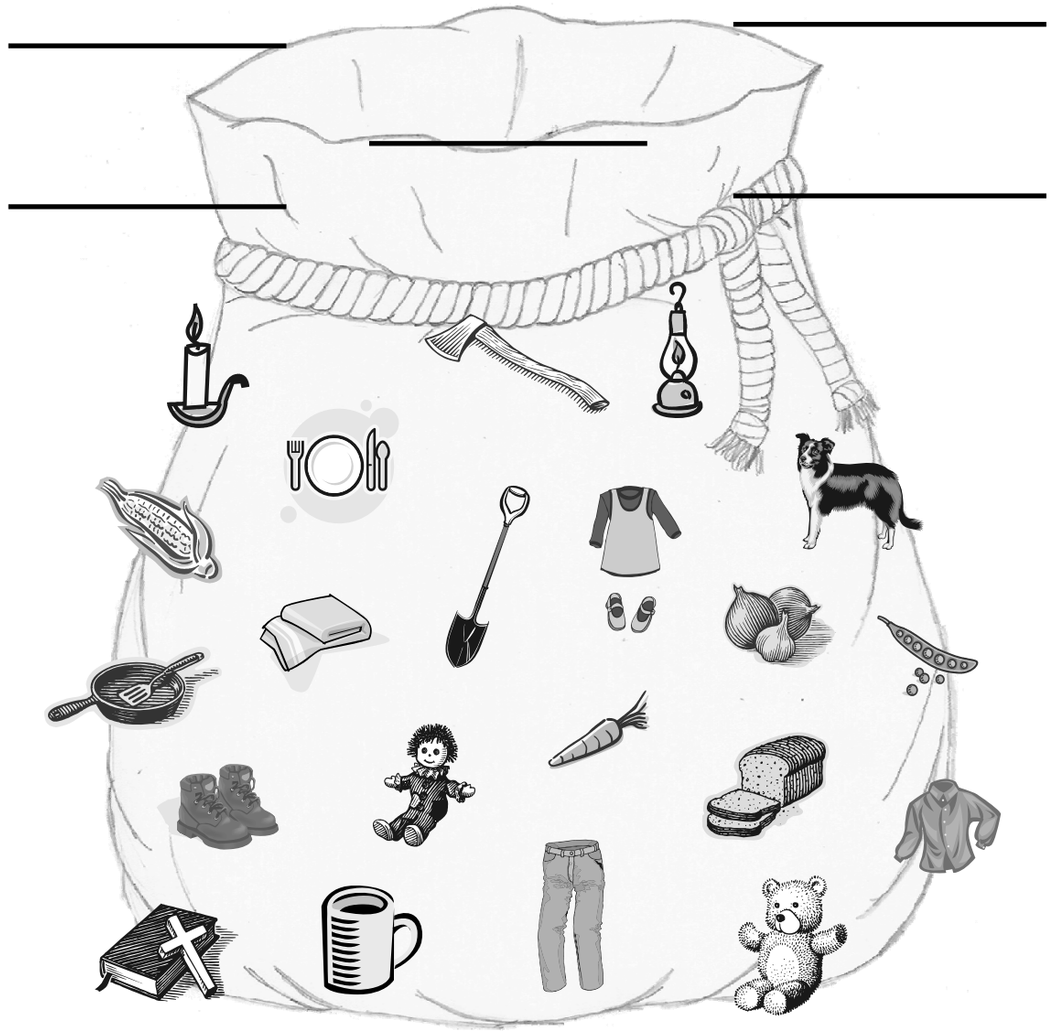
_____

_____

Can you name 2 places to hide? _____

Freedom Bag

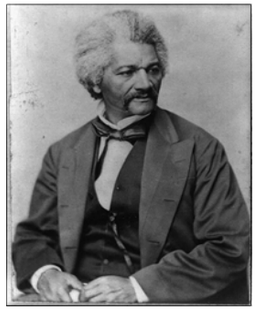
Imagine that you are a slave getting ready for your escape to freedom. The journey may be long and hard. Circle the items you will take with you? Can you name anything else you might want to take along? Can you explain why you chose these items?



People of the Und derground Railroad

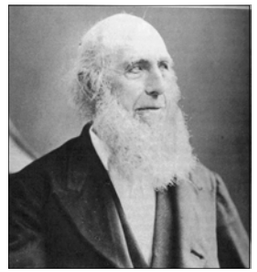
The history of the Underground Railroad is a story of human courage, endurance and the belief of individual freedom. Due to the secretive nature of the railroad, it is unknown just how many slaves attempted to escape or achieved a new life in freedom. Nor is it possible to document all of those individuals who opposed slavery, risking their lives and well being to assist those in their journey to freedom.

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. Harriet Tubman was known as one of the "greatest conductors" of the Underground Railroad.



Frederick Douglas was born into slavery in Maryland. As a servant in Baltimore, Frederick was taught to read and write by the lady of the house. Upon the death of his master, he was sent south to work in the fields. This did not suit Frederick at all and by the time he was 21, he made his escape to New York disguised as a sailor. Over the years, he made numerous speeches on slavery and women's rights and became nationally known as an abolitionist. In 1845, he published his *"Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas"* and in 1847 began publishing his newspaper *"The North Star".*

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.



to the "Underground Railroad".

Kansas-Nebraska Act
Divided the nation on the issue of slavery and pointed the country towards the Civil War. **1854**

South Carolina troops fire on Fort Sumter and the Civil War begins **1861**

Emancipation Proclamation
President Lincoln issued a statement that "all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and hence forward shall be free" **1863**

Though President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation didn't actually free any slave, it did change the course of the war. Three years into the war, the Union Armies and Navy now accepted blacks into their ranks. By the end of the war, approximately 200,000 black soldiers and sailors fought for the Union and for freedom **1863**

13th Amendment– officially abolished slavery throughout the United States **1865**

14th Amendment - required states to provide equal protection to protect civil rights of former slaves **1868**

15th Amendment granted voting rights of all people regardless of race **1870**

Highlights of the Un erground Railroad

A brief overview of the events related

1817 Federal troops waged a war against Seminole Indians and runaway slaves in Florida

1820 Levi Coffin began establishing long distance escape routes from North Carolina to Indiana

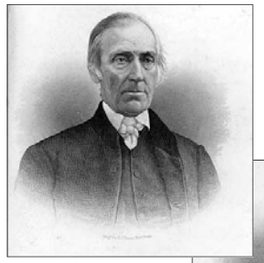
1830s As the railroads became popular and spread north across the states, railroad jargon became the coded language of the Underground Railroad

1833 American Anti-Slavery Society was founded in Philadelphia

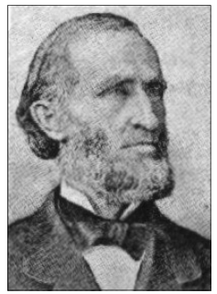
1840s Ripley Ohio, along the Ohio River, becomes one of the most active centers of Underground activity

1841 Josiah Henson– a fugitive slave from Maryland establishes the Dawn Institute in Chatham Ontario, Canada whereby slaves could learn trades and adjust to free society

1850 **Fugitive Slave Act**
Permitted slaveholders to recapture and return slaves. Slaves who had fled to free states in the north were now forced to continue their freedom journey to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Europe

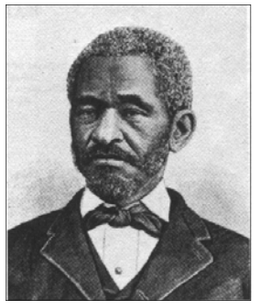


Levi and Catharine Coffin were Quakers, originally from North Carolina before moving to Newport, Indiana. During the 20 years they lived in Indiana, they provided a safe haven for over 2000 slaves escaping to freedom. Of all the slaves that Levi assisted, none of them failed to reach freedom. He was often referred to as the "President of the Underground Railroad.



Reverend Calvin Fairbanks was just one of many people helping slaves to escape bondage in Kentucky. Though he never lost a slave to be recaptured, he was not so lucky himself. In 1844, Fairbanks was captured, tried and sentenced to 15 years for aiding and abetting fugitive slaves. He was released after 4 years at which time Lewis Hayden, a former slave, in a debt of gratitude, provided the "ransom" payment for his freedom.

Lewis Hayden was born into slavery in Lexington, Kentucky in 1811. During 1844, Hayden escaped with his wife Harriet and son. Along the way he was aided by Rev. Calvin Fairbanks. He was successful in his flight to freedom and became a prominent abolitionist aiding many slaves. In 1849, Hayden raised $600 as "ransom" payment for Fairbanks release.



People of the Underground Railroad

Bridget "Biddy" Mason was brought to California by her owner, John Smith, in 1851. Due to the fact that California was a free state and with the possibility of losing his land, Smith tried to convince his slaves that they would be free if they moved to Texas (a slave state). Biddy doubted Smith's truthfulness and sought help. Smith's slaves were placed in protective custody and in 1856, a judge ruled in favor of Biddy .

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 are not to be dismissed, it was his third master, who was ruthless and violent, which led to Harry's escape. His master, "Jesse Moore" on this occasion 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. Harry sought refuge within the woods where for the next 7 months he lived in a hollow poplar tree and then a couple more months in a cave before reaching freedom.

Eliza Harris was a slave 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 up north. Her husband William, would travel 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.

For more stories, visit our website at: http://www.nps.gov/ugrr/TEMPLATE/FrontEnd/VignetteList.cfm

To Be Free

Write about what "Freedom" means to you.