

WEBQUEST : UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



Linda McCormick

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD WEBQUEST



The Underground Railroad was a term used for a network of people, homes, and hideouts that slaves in the southern United States used to escape to freedom in the Northern United States and Canada. Using the web address below, let's learn more about these brave people that risked their lives for freedom.

http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war/underground_railroad.php

1. The Underground Railroad wasn't an actual railroad. But the terms used to describe people did come from the railway. List three titles that were used and what each one did for the organization.

2. Describe some of the people that worked for the Underground Railroad.

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3. How did people usually “travel” on the railway?

4. How far apart were the stations usually?

5. It was very dangerous for both the slaves trying to escape and the people helping them. What could happen to a conductor if he was caught helping a slave escape?

6. What years did the Underground Railroad operate? What is the estimated number of slaves that escaped?

7. When was the Fugitive Slave Act passed and what did it make law?

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8. How did the Fugitive Slave Act make it even harder for the Underground Railroad?

9. What is an Abolitionists?

10. Which state was the first to abolish slavery and when?

11. Slave owners really wanted ex-slave and conductor Harriet Tubman arrested. How much of a reward were they offering for her?

12. How many slaves did Levi Coffin, a Quaker, help to escape?

After the “Interesting Facts” section, look for this sentence.

“Take a ten question quiz at [Underground Railroad questions](#) page.”

Click on the blue link and see how you do on the quiz. Your score will be at the bottom. Good Luck!

Best Score _____

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Key

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The Underground Railroad was a term used for a network of people, homes, and hideouts that slaves in the southern United States used to escape to freedom in the Northern United States and Canada. Using the web address below, let's learn more about these brave people that risked their lives for freedom.

http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war/underground_railroad.php

1. The Underground Railroad wasn't an actual railroad. But the terms used to describe people did come from the railway. List three titles that were used and what each one did for the organization.

People who led the slaves along the route were called conductors. Hideouts and homes where slaves hid along the way were called stations or depots. Even people who helped by giving money and food were sometimes called stockholders.

2. Described some of the people that worked for the Underground Railroad.

Many people from various backgrounds worked as conductors and provided safe places for the slaves to stay along the route. Some of the conductors were former slaves such as Harriet Tubman who escaped using the Underground Railroad and then returned to help more slaves escape. Many white people who felt that slavery was wrong also helped, including Quakers from the north. They often provided hideouts in their homes as well as food and other supplies.

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3. How did people usually “travel” on the railway?

They walked from station to station.

4. How far apart were the stations usually?

They were usually 10 to 20 miles apart.

5. It was very dangerous for both the slaves trying to escape and the people helping them. What could happen to a conductor if he was caught helping a slave escape?

They could be put to death by hanging.

6. What years did the Underground Railroad operate? What is the estimated number of slaves that escaped?

It ran from 1810 to the 1860's. It is estimated that 100,000 slaves escaped.

7. When was the Fugitive Slave Act passed and what did it make law?

It was passed in 1850 and said any slaves found in free states had to be returned to their owners in the south.

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8. How did the Fugitive Slave Act make it even harder for the Underground Railroad?

Now it was necessary to get the slaves all the way to Canada to be safe from capture again.

9. What is an Abolitionists?

Abolitionists were people who thought slavery should be made illegal and all current slaves should be set free.

10. Which state was the first to abolish slavery and when?

Pennsylvania in 1780.

11. Slave owners really wanted ex-slave and conductor Harriet Tubman arrested. How much of a reward were they offering for her?

40,000 dollars

12. How many slaves did Levi Coffin, a Quaker, help to escape?

3,000

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