

Program Summary

Grades: 4 - 5

Duration: 30-40 minutes

Program Description:

The Underground Railroad was a secret network that helped enslaved people get to freedom. Brave men and women worked to help freedom seekers as well as liberated themselves from slavery. This program will have your students becoming historians as they work with museum educators to learn about slavery, the treatment of the enslaved, the agency that enslaved people had, and the journey to freedom some of them took. Students will learn the geography of the US before the Civil War, and what divided the country: slavery. Students will build critical thinking and historic thinking skills as they participate in photo analysis activities. Students will work on literacy and language art skills while reading about those who played key roles on the Underground Railroad in the Midwest, and come together to share out their findings.

This program will take place on zoom. It is designed to be a collaborative lesson between the students and the museum facilitator. We ask that your students be split up into groups of four for an activity. A week prior to your field trip, you will receive a teacher packet with information, as well as worksheets to make copies of.

Activities:

- Students will label a map to determine what states were slave state and which were free states before the Civil War.
- Students will engage in dialogues and questioning while looking at historic photos of lives of enslaved people.
- Students will read about a person who either used or helped with the Underground Railroad and share out their story.

Program Goals:

- Students will identify the slave and free states in the lead up to the Civil War.
- Students will understand how the Fugitive Slave Act created a need for the Underground Railroad.
- Students will work on critical thinking and observation skills.

Learning Targets:

Students Will:

- Learn about slavery, the conditions the enslaved people lives and the means to end slavery.
 - Learn about the Underground Railroad.
 - Learn about various people who either traveled on or helped with the Underground Railroad.
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Learning Standards

Don't see your state's learning standards? Email us for a list of standards this program meets

Wisconsin:

- SS.Inq1.b.i Develop a list of questions that support the research through discussion and investigation to guide inquiry.
- SS.Inq3.a.i Create a thesis statement based on evidence found in sources to make a claim.
- SS.Inq4.a.i Communicate conclusions from a variety of teacher-provided presentation options.
- SS.Hist1.a.i Use evidence to draw conclusions about probable causes of historical events, issues, and problems.
- SS.Hist2.c.i Analyze individuals, groups, and events to understand why their contributions are important to historical change or continuity.
- SS.Hist3.b.i Identify different historical perspectives regarding people and events in the past.

Illinois:

- SS.IS.1.3-5. Develop essential questions and explain the importance of the questions to self and others.
 - SS.IS.2.3-5. Create supporting questions to help answer essential questions in an inquiry.
 - SS.IS.5.3-5. Develop claims using evidence from multiple sources to answer essential questions.
 - SS.H.1.4. Explain connections among historical contexts and why individuals and groups differed in their perspectives during the same historical period.
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Contact Information

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