

Voices of the Underground Railroad

Program Summary

Grades: 4 - 5

Duration: 2 hours

Program Description:

Voices of the Underground Railroad is a two-hour program designed for 4th and 5th grade students. This program explores the system of slavery in place in the United States before the Civil War as well as the Underground Railroad through a classroom experience and small group exhibit exploration. The program pays particular attention to the role enslaved people played in the American economic system, the varied types of work they did, the living conditions of the enslaved, and the ways they empowered themselves to escape or rebel against their enslavers.

Program Goals:

- Students will participate in program generated discussion about the Underground Railroad with other students, teachers, and a museum facilitator.
- Students will understand the dangers and hardships that freedom seekers encountered while attempting to free themselves from slavery.
- Students will work collaboratively to improve their critical thinking and observation skills.

Learning Standards:

Wisconsin Social Science Performance Standards B.4.1, B.4.5, B.8.10

Common Core: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1.D, CCSS.ELA.LITERACY-SL.4.3

Illinois Social Studies Standards: SS.IS.5.3-5, SS.H.1.4, SS.H.3.4

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