

researched by Sally Bub, May, 2000
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LIS 518 RE

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Underground Railroad

Pathfinder

This Pathfinder on the Underground Railroad has been created for use in the Rochester City School District for Middle School Social Studies students.

Material availability has been designated available from the Rochester City School District libraries or Rochester Public Libraries/Monroe County Library System locations. Interlibrary Loan requests can be initiated for all materials except those housed at the Rochester Public Library Local History Department at the Rundell Building.

Classes or organizations outside the Rochester City School District might find similar or same materials available within their school district, or utilize interlibrary loans to view materials.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PATHFINDER

The Underground Railroad was a loosely organized network of people and places that helped slaves escape to freedom. Many of the participants and safe houses are not known and may never be known because they were so secret at the time. This pathfinder focuses on information sources on the Underground Railroad for grades 6-8 with a special emphasis on activities within New York State.

WEB SITES

I used a keyword search of "Underground Railroad in New York State" to find the following websites. Most were listed on the Google search engine and/or AOL. Some hits using these keywords were for unrelated topics, but the majority were appropriate for the topic.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad/>

National Geographic Magazine presents this site with multiple links. Click on the swinging lantern to find options. Journey will take you on an adventure - you are the escaping slave and must make choices along the path through Delaware to Philadelphia, on to Rochester then to Lake Erie and freedom in Canada. Pull down menu also offers *Routes to Freedom, Timeline, For Kids, Faces of Freedom, Store and Resources and Links*.

<http://www2.lhric.org/pocantico/tubman/tubman.html>.

This site has been developed by a 2nd grade class in Sleepy Hollow, New York and includes a timeline, a quiz, character sketches, poems, and crossword puzzles.

<http://www.nps.gov/undergroundrr/contents.htm>

This site is a special resource study presented by the National Park Services. Links to information on the study and items that can be ordered for the classroom.

<http://education.ucdavis.e...TC/lesson/socstud/railroad/contents.htm>

Site provides links to famous people on the Underground Railroad, legislation, literature, music, maps and a bibliography. Open since May 1996, the Website was last updated in November, 1999.

<http://www.undergroundrailroad.org/home.html>

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center sponsors this site. Further links to history, stations, curriculum notes as well as National Parks Service Sites.

<http://www.murphyorchards.com/ur>

Niagara County, New York is home to Murphy Orchards, a safe haven on the Underground Railroad. Site includes a map of western New York with station locations and information

<http://www.nyhistory.com/ugrr/>

New York History Net site. "The purpose of this Website is to catalogue information on the People and Places of New York that were involved in the activities of the Underground Railroad, and to provide reliable information about their role in African Americans' struggle for freedom." Links to route maps, people, related links and sources.

<http://www.oswego.edu>

This is the home page for SUNY Oswego. Scroll down to Oswego County-Underground Railroad. Click and connect to a site chronicling the anti-slavery activities in Oswego County beginning about 1835. Oswego County residents, black and white, formed anti-slavery societies and organized networks to help escaped slaves reach Canada. This site is sponsored by the Underground Railway Project of Oswego County in cooperation with Women's Rights National Historical Park, the History Department at SUNY Oswego, and other local historical and government organizations. Table of Contents links to names of people involved, newspaper articles, anti-slavery petition, and other interesting sites.

<http://www.freedomtrail.org/goals.htm>

"Forging the Freedom Trail" was organized to "ensure that the legacy of the Underground Railroad in New York State and Canada never be forgotten." Site notes the goals and objectives of the organization and links to information on some of the most noted African American leaders of the "railroad."

<http://faculty.acu.edu/~armstrong/geography/rail.htm>

The Road to Freedom - the Underground Railroad. Reviews history and politics behind the Underground Railroad. Bibliography provides links to other sites and notes other reading material.

http://students.itec.sfsu.edu/itec815_s99/jdetweiler/credits.html.

This site was created by an instructional technology student at San Francisco State University. Links to web sites on the Underground Railroad, sources, and notations on written and video/audio sources.

http://www.education-world.com/a_sites/sites004.shtml

Education World great sites article on the Underground Railroad. Links to other sites including lesson planning and curriculum, African-American Mosaic, and A Slave's Story.

<http://www.library.sos.state.il.us/isl/ref/newugrr.html>

Paths towards Freedom: A Bibliography of the Underground Railroad. Information compiled by two reference librarians at the Illinois State Library includes bibliography of reference materials on the Underground Railroad, leaders of the movement, culture and slavery in the South, and Internet sites.

<http://www.dreamscape.com/jimmymac/tubman.htm>

Trail of a Legend article on Harriet Tubman's homesite and other historical places connected with Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

<http://kids.library.wisc.edu/archive/KIDS-9911207.html>

This issue of KIDS was developed by a class at the Portage Path School of Technology in Akron, Ohio. The KIDS Report is a biweekly publication produced by K-12 students as a resource to other K-12 students by 15 classrooms from around the world. Includes links to sites (some with audio components) showing history, maps, songs, slave narratives, and biographical information.

http://www.kimandreggie.com/steal_cd.htm

Kim and Reggie Harris give historical information about the Underground Railroad as well as describing the 16 freedom songs of the Underground Railroad on their CD. Ordering information included.

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USASunderground.htm>

Review of the history of slavery and leaders on the Underground Railroad along with slave accounts of their escapes.

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/mycu/travel/trdur.htm>

U. S. News Online article from the 1997 *Great Vacation Drives* book. Retraces the escape routes of runaway slaves with special emphasis on Harriet Tubman's activities and the routes in and around her home in Auburn, New York.

<http://www.plainfield.k12.in.us/hschool/webq50/ugrrwbst.htm>

Lesson developed for 6th grade students including resources, process, and evaluation links for the teacher as well as computer station site links for students.

<http://eduscapes.com/r2explore/undergrd.htm>

Be an Underground Railroad explorer. Make choices, plan an escape route. Links to many other sites including the History Channel, and Underground Railroad in Rochester, New York.

<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/~sww/Ohistory/hwny-ugrr.html>

African American History of Western New York site traces the presence of Blacks in Western New York and includes a section on the Fugitive Slave Act and the Underground Railroad and links to other sites.

<http://members.aol.com/traltman/RR.html>

General History of the Underground Railroad from the Clemont County, Ohio Genealogy and Local History Network. Includes history, timeline, and links to more information sites - New York included.

<http://www.jaceynet.com/washboard/tunnel.htm>

Describes part of a journey to a "station" on the underground railroad. Suggestions of information sources and brief review of two print sources.

<http://www.coax.net/people/lwf/quilts.htm>

Hidden in Plain View, A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad. Review of a book detailing the codes hidden in quilts that guided escapees along their journey.

<http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/D...n> -Resources/Bibliographies/ugrrbib.html

University of Maryland database of resource information on the underground Railroad.

<http://www.ugrr.org//names/map-ny.htm>

Directory of Underground Railroad operators by county in New York State.

<http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~densmore/>

Reform, religion and the Underground Railroad in Western New York. University of Buffalo site of links to information on the underground railroad operations, history and politics and people in Western New York.

ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL LIBRARIES

BOOKS - NON-FICTION

Bains, Rae, Harriet Tubman -- The Road to Freedom

A biography of a slave whose flight to freedom led to her becoming a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

Bennett, Evelyn, Frederick Douglass and the War Against Slavery

A biography of the escaped slave who became a leader in the abolitionist movement. Gateway Civil Rights Series.

Blassingame, John W., Frederick Douglass, the Clarion Voice

A biography of Frederick Douglass, escaped slave and active abolitionist.

Bontemps, Arna, Free at Last; the Life of Frederick Douglass

Biography of escaped slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

Bradford, Sarah, Harriet Tubman, the Moses of her People

The life of Harriet Tubman and her work with the underground railroad are recounted after she escaped from slavery in the plantation South.

Breyfogle, William, Make free, the Story of the Underground Railroad

Recounts the experiences of the courageous and resourceful individuals who comprised the Underground Railroad and helped spirit Negro slaves to freedom in Canada.

Burns, Bree, Harriet Tubman

A biography of the African-American woman best known for her work with the underground railroad.

Cosner, Shaaron, The Underground Railroad

Describes the underground railroad, which helped slaves escape to freedom. Includes bibliography.

Davis, Ossie, Escape to Freedom, a Play About Young Frederick Douglass

Born a slave, young Frederick Douglass endures many years of cruelty before escaping to the North to claim his freedom.

Douglass, Frederick, Life and times of Frederick Douglass

Autobiography covering the life of Frederick Douglass from his plantation life in Maryland through his escape and abolitionist activities. Also titled My Bondage and My Freedom.

DuBois, Shirley Graham, There Was Once A Slave . . . The Heroic Story of Frederick Douglass

This biography of Frederick Douglass received the Julian Messner award for the best book combating intolerance in America.

Ferris, Jeri, Go Free or Die, A Story about Harriet Tubman

A biography of the black woman whose cruel experiences as a slave in the South led her to seek freedom in the north for herself and for others through the Underground Railroad.

Haskins, Jim, Get on Board, the Story of the Underground Railroad

This book, targeted at grades 3 to 7, discusses the Underground Railroad and the people helping slaves escape to freedom.

Hoexter, Corinne K., Black Crusader; Frederick Douglass

Biography of escaped slave, Frederick Douglass and his leadership in the anti-slavery movement.

Huggins, Nathan Irvin, Slave and Citizen: The Life of Frederick Douglass

Biography of abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Part of the Library of American biography Series.

Levine, Ellen, ... If you traveled on the Underground Railroad

This book is an account of traveling the Underground Railroad to freedom.

McKissack, Patricia and McKissack, Fredrick, Frederick Douglass, the Black Lion

Biography describes how Frederick Douglass rose from slavery to become a writer and leader of the abolition movement. People of Distinction Series.

McKissack, Patricia and McKissack, Fredrick, Leader Against Slavery

This biography describes the life and accomplishments of abolitionist Frederick Douglass

Meyer, Linda, Kerstetter, J., Harriet Tubman, They Call Me Moses

A biography of Harriet Tubman's life as a slave and her efforts on behalf of escaping slaves through the underground railroad.

Miller, Douglas T., Frederick Douglass and the Fight for Freedom

Traces the life of the black abolitionist from his early years in slavery to his later success as a persuasive editor, orator and writer. Makers of America (Facts on File, Inc.) Series.

Petry, Ann, Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad

A biographical account of Harriet Tubman's contributions to slaves escaping on the Underground Railroad.

Phelan, Helene C., And Why Not Every Man? An Account of Slavery, the Underground Railroad, and the road to freedom in New York's Southern Tier

Story of slave journeys to freedom focusing on the Southern Tier of New York State. With maps and bibliography.

Rappaport, Doreen, Escape from Slavery, Five Journeys to Freedom

Five accounts of black slaves escaping to freedom just prior to the Civil War. Includes Bibliography.

Russell, Sharman Apt., Frederick Douglass

Black Americans of Achievement series. A biography of the man who, after escaping slavery, became an orator, writer, and leader in the anti-slavery movement.

Spencer, Philip, Three Against Slavery: Denmark Vesey, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass

Brief biographies of three nineteenth-century men, two black, one white, who lead the struggle for the abolition of slavery. Firebird Biographies Series.

Sterling, Dorothy, Freedom Train, the Story of Harriet Tubman

The biography of a slave whose flight to freedom was the first step in risking her own life again and again as she helped other slaves escape.

Sterling, Philip, Four took Freedom: the Lives of Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Robert Smalls and Blanche K. Bruce

Biographical portraits of four famous Negro Americans who escaped slavery and joined the fight for freedom and equality.

Taylor, M. W. Harriet Tubman

Describes the life of the abolitionist from slave life to her role as a conductor for the Underground Railroad, her services to the Union during the Civil War, and her role in establishing an old-age home for African-Americans.

Weiner, Eric, The Story of Frederick Douglass: Voice of Freedom

Biography of a slave who escaped to freedom and worked to abolish slavery. Includes chronology and bibliography.

Wheat, Ellen Harkins, Jacob Lawrence: The Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman Series of 1938-40

Sixty-three captioned panels tell the story of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman.

Wilson, Ruth, Our Blood and Tears, Black Freedom Fighters

Brief biographies of three nineteenth-century black men, including Frederick Douglass, emphasizing their struggles to free their people from slavery.

BOOKS - FICTION

Carbone, Elisa, Stealing Freedom

A novel based on the events in the life of a young slave girl from Maryland who endures all kinds of mistreatment and cruelty, including being separated from her family. She eventually escapes to freedom in Canada.

Hamilton, Virginia, The House of Dies Drear

A black family tries to unravel the secrets of their new home, which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Monfredo, Miriam Grace, North Star Conspiracy

Glynis Tryon, librarian-sleuth, helps lead fugitive slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. She investigates the death of a freed slave in Seneca Falls, New York while others focus on the opening of a new theater.

VIDEO'S/KITS

Follow the drinking gourd, A story of the Underground Railroad, Rabbit Ears American Heroes and Legends Series.

The story is based on a traditional American folksong, which recounts the adventures of one family's escape from slavery using the Underground Railroad. VHS videocassette (30 min.).

Frederick Douglass, Schlessinger Video Productions

Biography of Frederick Douglass in the Black Americans of Achievement Series. Adapted from the book by Sharman Apt Russell. (VHS, 30 min.)

Frederick Douglass; The Fight for Equal Rights, Biography Series, Set II, Fighters for American Progress

Kit contains 1 filmstrip and 1 sound disc. Biography of escaped slave and freedom fighter Frederick Douglass.

Frederick Douglass; When the Lion Wrote History, WETA TV

Frederick Douglass was a passionate leader in the early fight for civil rights as well as elegant orator and rights activists. (VHS tape, 90 min.)

Harriet Tubman

Video tells the story of Harriet Tubman's life as a slave and leader on the Underground Railroad. VHS videocassette.

Harriet Tubman. The Black Americans of Achievement Video Collection

Traces the life and influence of this anti-slavery activist. *39 nub,(

Harriet Tubman Tells her Story. An AVCEL production for Society for Visual Education

Portrays the life of escaped slave Harriet Tubman, including her role in helping to free other slaves during the Civil War. VHS videocassette (20 min.)

The House of Dies Drear, WonderWorks family movie

A modern-day black family moves into a house that seems to be haunted by the murdered abolitionist Dies Drear. VHS videocassette (116 min.).

Leading American Negroes, Society for Visual Education

Kit contains 6 filmstrips and 6 sound cassettes. Introduces students to the lives and accomplishments of six famous Black Americans including Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman.

North to Freedom, WROC TV

A study of the underground railroad in the Rochester area. VHS videocassette (30 min.).

The Quest for Freedom. In Search of Heroes Series.

A story of Harriet Tubman as she led hundreds to freedom on the Underground Railroad and taught the meaning of courage to all generations. One videotape (40 min.) plus Teacher's guide.

Race to Freedom, The Underground Railroad, Atlantis Films

Tale of slaves escaping the south and traveling to freedom in Canada along the Underground Railroad. Videotape (2 hrs.)

Roots of Resistance, A Story of the Underground Railroad. The American Experience Series.

Roots of Resistance explores the ways in which African Americans and their white allies fought against slavery and strove to make the dream of freedom real. Story told through the narratives of escaped slaves and recollections of those descended from the Railroad's courageous passengers. Video (60 min.).

ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Note: Most items held in the Local History Division of the Rochester Public Library are not available for check out. Can be used in the Local History Division where a copier is available.

BOOKS/PHAMPLETS - NON-FICTION

Klees, Emerson Underground Railroad Tales

Overview of slave economy, history of the underground railroad. Tales of slaves who escaped and the men and women who helped them. Covers four geographical regions including routes through the Finger Lakes Region. Biographical sketches of six of the most influential members of the underground Railroad including Frederick Douglass (Rochester, NY), Gerrit Smith (Peterboro, NY), and Harriet Tubman (Auburn, NY). Includes Bibliography and recommended books.

Lee, Florence. The Underground Railroad, A System for Conducting Fugitive Salves to Freedom.

Monroe County Historian Florence Lee prepared this chronology of Frederick Douglass's life. Booklet includes a "tour guide" describing 13 sites along the Underground Railroad in Rochester. Bibliography included.

McCanne, Lee. A Path to Freedom, One Underground Railroad Route in Monroe County

This booklet traces a route on the Underground Railroad from the Warrant Farm in Henrietta to Frederick Douglass's home in Rochester and on to Canada. Also includes a chronology of slavery from 1790 to 1865, commentary on the de-segregation of public schools in Rochester, and a review of the life of Frederick Douglass.

Phelan, Helene C., And Why Not Every Man? An Account of Slavery, the Underground Railroad, and the road to freedom in New York's Southern Tier

Story of slave journeys to freedom focusing on the Southern Tier of New York State. With maps and bibliography.

Robinson, Rosemary. I Wrought in the Day, You in the Night

Pamphlet describes routes, homes and people involved with the Rochester underground railroad stations.

Rochester Public Library Vertical File

This file includes a collection of newspaper articles on the Rochester connections to the Underground Railroad. Clippings are from local papers from September, 1928 through June, 1964.

BOOKS - FICTION

Monfredo, Miriam Grace. North Star Conspiracy

This fictitious account of the Underground Railroad includes references to actual historic figures. New York State routes included.