

# Heroes of the Underground Railroad

**Name:** Kristin Bach **Date:** October 13, 2007 **Lesson Length:** 2 days for 1-2 hours each  
**Grade Level:** 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Objective:

1. Students will choose an Underground Railroad hero.
2. Students will research their Underground Railroad hero.
3. Students will create a medal honoring their Underground Railroad hero.
4. Students will describe why their person is considered an Underground Railroad hero.

## Connections:

**SS-EP-5.1.1** Students will use a variety of tools (e.g., primary and secondary sources (e.g., artifacts, diaries, timelines) to interpret the past.

**SS-EP-2.3.1** Students will describe various forms of interaction (compromise, cooperation, conflict, competition) that occur between individuals/groups.

**Context:** The students have already discussed freedom and slavery. They have learned about segregation. The students have also used the computers for research purposes and are aware of how to use the internet to locate information.

## Materials/Technology:

- ✚ Mobile laptop classroom
- ✚ Underground Railroad books (see attached list)
- ✚ Copy of the medal pattern
- ✚ Yarn
- ✚ Crayons, markers, colored pencils

## Procedures:

### DAY ONE

1. Write the words UNDERGROUND RAILROAD on the board. Ask the students if they have ever heard of the UGRR before. Get an idea of what the student already know if anything. Reinforce correct statements and correct misconceptions.
2. Read Escape! A Story of the Underground Railroad, by Sharon Shavers Gayle. Discuss the book talk about what the young girl sees/does when she is transported to the 1850's and is escaping on the Underground Railroad. Ask the students what they now know about the UGRR.
3. Discuss with the students that the UGRR was ordinary people doing extraordinary things. The UGRR was about saving people's lives. Explain that there were a lot of people who helped slaves escape the south. The people who helped others escape risked their own freedom and life. Discuss how high a risk it really was.

Help the students to recognize that the Underground Railroad was about people working together.

## **DAY TWO**

1. Review the material from the previous day's lesson.
2. Tell the students that today everyone will be researching important people involved in the Underground Railroad. Remind the students that the people we are researching are ordinary people who did extraordinary things to help others. They became heroes.
3. Have the students draw a name from the box. (See attached list for a sample of possible names to use for this activity.)
4. Explain that this is the name of the UGRR hero they will be researching.
5. Allow the students to use the laptops and the picture books to read and find out why their hero was so important. Give the students ample time to research.
6. Pass out the copies of the medal pattern. Explain that the students must draw a portrait of their hero on the front of the medal. On the back of the medal the student must explain what makes their UGRR hero so special.
7. Instruct the students to make their portraits colorful.
8. Allow each student to share their UGRR Hero Medal with the class. Emphasize the heroic quality of each person.

**\*\*For students with IEP's-** some of the students with IEP's will be paired up with another student and assigned the same hero so that they can work together to complete the task.

### **Student Assessment:**

The students will be assessed on their class participation and their medal completion.

Each medal will be scored using the following rubric:

#### **Score 4**

Student draws a portrait of their hero.

Student clearly describes contribution to the UGRR.

Medal is neat and colorful.

#### **Score 3**

Student draws a portrait of their hero.

Student adequately describes contribution to the UGRR.

Medal is somewhat neat and colorful.

#### **Score 2**

Student draws a portrait of their hero.

Student somewhat describes contribution to the UGRR.

Medal lacks neatness and color.

#### **Score 1**

Student draws a portrait of their hero.

Student doesn't describe contribution to the UGRR.

Medal lacks neatness and color.

# *Underground Railroad Heroes*

*Harriet Tubman  
Frederick Douglass  
Sojourner Truth  
Harriet Beecher Stowe  
John Parker  
Rev. Rankin  
Box Brown  
William & Ellen Craft  
John Fairfield  
Tice Davis  
William Still  
Levi Coffin  
Thurgood Marshall*

## *Possible Resources:*

### *Internet sites:*

[www.Ask.com](http://www.Ask.com)

<http://www.educationalsynthesis.org/famamer/>

### *Books:*

*Escape! A story of the Underground Railroad* by Sharon Shavers Gayle

*A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman* by David Adler

*A Picture Book of Frederick Douglass* by David Adler

*A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth* by David Adler

*Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* by Rae Bains

*Tales from the Underground Railroad* by Kate Connell

*Frederick Douglass* by Mona Kerby

*Sojourner Truth: Antislavery Activist* by Peter Krass

*Frederick Douglass: Abolitionist and Author* by Norma Jean Lutz

*Harriet Tubman: Leader of the Underground Railroad* by Norma Jean Lutz

*Sojourner Truth: Abolitionist, Suffragist, and Preacher* by Norma Jean Lutz