

The Underground Railroad



Lesson Length- 120 minutes

Subject- The Underground Railroad 101- An Introduction

Topic- An Overview/Empathy

Objectives: Students develop empathy for the harsh treatment endured by slaves. Students begin to understand the extent of involvement of The Underground Railroad and our local history.

Materials: Charts for Carouseling
The Story of Eliza
Various resources books giving overviews of the Underground Railroad
“Communication” poster used with Talents Unlimited Program
U-lead video w/lap top, projector, and screen
Venn Diagrams
Sample slave narratives

Procedures:

- 1) Introduction: Divide students into two groups allowing 1 group free time and the other work time. Discuss feelings.
- 2) Carouseling with 4 questions. Students work with their groups to brainstorm what they know about slavery and the Underground Railroad. Use “Communication” aspect of Talents Unlimited: List words to describe: 1) Words or phrases to describe the Underground Railroad 2) Words or phrases to describe a slave 3) Words to describe a slave owner 4) Words or phrases to describe the work of a slave. Discuss.
- 3) Show the U-lead video to confirm or unconfirm ideas from brainstorming. With group make a list of adjectives to describe feelings that slaves must have had. Share and discuss. (Talent’s Unlimited: affective 1 word descriptors)
- 4) Read- Eliza’s Story
- 5) Distribute sample slave narratives. Students research to find differences: 1) Life of a slave child vs. your life 2) Traditions and customs of slaves vs. your traditions and

- customs 3) Marriage of slaves vs. marriages in our culture 4) Daily life of a slave vs. your daily life
- 6) Students share findings and write a journal entry from the point of view of a 10-year-old fugitive slave.

Assessment:

Venn diagrams and diary entries are assessed for understanding, information, and evidence of empathy. Participation is assessed, but no grades are given due to this being an introduction of these concepts.