



THREADS OF FREEDOM

Subject: History & Language Arts

Grade: 1st and 2nd

Topic: Underground Railroad Quilts

Length: 2 class periods

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to identify terms and codes used in the Underground Railroad.
2. Students will recognize the importance of freedom and secrecy.
3. Students will study quilt patterns used by the slaves and learn the messages.
4. Students will create quilt squares and present the messages to their class.

Materials:

- Literature: The Patchwork Path, The Secret to Freedom
- Computers with Internet access
- Construction Paper
- Glue

Procedures:

Day 1:

- Discuss UGRR and it's secret terminology
- Read: The Patchwork Path by: Bettye Stroud
- Discuss book
- Have students work in groups to research quilts on the Internet.

Day 2:

- Read: The Secret to Freedom by: Marcia Vaughan
- Discuss quilt patterns used in the Underground Railroad.
- In their groups, students will make a quilt square.
- Each group will present their quilt square to the class, explaining each meaning and importance.
- Use all squares from the groups to make a class quilt.



Literature:

The Secret to Freedom by: Bettye Stroud

The Patchwork Path by: Marcia Vaughan

Under the Quilt of Night by: Deborah Hopkinson

Follow the Drinking Gourd by: Jeanette Winter

Liberty Street by: Candice Ransom

Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky by: Faith Ringgold

Friend on Freedom River by: Gloria Whelan

Websites:

http://home.columbus.rr.com/bradshaw/UNDERRR/quilt/underground_railroad_quilt.htm

<http://www.beavton.k12.or.us/greenway/leahy/ugrr/>

<http://ugrrquilt.hartcottagequilts.com/rr3.htm#blocks>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J0112604/>