



The Underground Railroad

Subject: Social Studies

Topic: The Underground Railroad

Grade Level: 2nd

Lesson Length: 7 days

Objectives:

1. Students will create a KWL chart about the Underground Railroad.
2. Students will analyze reward posters for runaway slaves and create their own reward poster.
3. Students will research a famous participant in the Underground Railroad and create a presentation about that person.
4. Students will rotate through various centers to investigate the Underground Railroad.
5. Students will create their own Underground Railroad quilt piece to make a class quilt showing symbols and important events of the Underground Railroad.
6. Students will complete an open response question explaining the importance of the Underground Railroad to our countries history.

Materials:

- *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky*
- Various books about the Underground Railroad
- Chart paper
- Copies of Reward Posters (Safe Passage)
- Safe Passage Disk
- Artwork from Safe Passage
- Paper
- Cards with information and names of people from the Underground Railroad
- Quilt Squares and Fabric Pens
- Open Response Question

Procedures:

Throughout the week, the teacher will read various books about the Underground Railroad during teacher read aloud. Also, while the students are working, the "Steal Away" CD will be played.

Day 1:

- As a class, complete the Know and Want to Know sections of a KWL chart. Have the students list things that they think they already know and ask questions that they would like to find out throughout the unit.
- Read *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky* to the students.
- Discuss the story and the many ideas presented about the Underground Railroad.

Day 2:

- Discuss the use of Reward posters during this time and show students examples from *Safe Passage*. Read these examples to the class.
- Give each student a slip of paper with a person in the class's name on it. Have each student create an ad describing that person.
- Share these ads with the class and see if the students can guess who the ad is for.
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Day 3 and 4:

- Conduct a Famous Underground Railroad Participants Day.
- The students will be put into groups to research a famous Underground Railroad participant and become an expert.
- The students will use information from the computer, library, and various books that are brought in to find their information.
- Students will then put together a presentation to share their person with the class.

Day 5:

- The students will rotate through 4 centers to investigate the Underground Railroad.
- **Center 1: Computer Center** - The students will use the *Safe Passage* Disk to discover information about the Underground Railroad.

- **Center 2:** Reading Center - The students will choose a book or brochure to read about someone or something that happened on the Underground Railroad. They will then complete a facts sheet stating information that they learned through reading that story.
- **Center 3:** Art Center - Various pictures will be displayed from *Safe Passage* for the students to see. The students will have 3 options to choose from when at this center. The student may: describe the picture, create a story about the picture, or recreate the picture with their own drawing.
- **Center 4:** Matching Card Game - Various cards will be placed upside down like the game *Memory*. The students will have to match the card with the information with the correct person. The information that will be put on these cards will come from the information that the students give in their presentations.

Day 6:

- The students will each be given their own quilt piece to decorate. Together we will brainstorm a list of ideas of symbols, people and important events on the Underground Railroad. The students will then use something from this list to draw or write about a symbol person or important event on a piece of paper and then on their quilt square using fabric pens.

Day 7:

- As a class, complete our KWL chart by listing all of the information that we learned throughout the unit.
- Complete the open response question: What is the importance of the Underground Railroad to our history? Trace your hand and list five important points that had an impact on our history.

Teacher Resources:

Safe Passage

Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky

Various read-aloud books about the Underground Railroad

Steal Away CD

Assessment:

**Underground Railroad
Open Response Rubric**

Name: _____

4	3	2	1
<p>Information is correct and 5 facts are given that the student learned about the Underground Railroad. The student clearly states how the Underground Railroad has affected our lives today. The answer contains detail and displays an understanding of the topic.</p>	<p>Information is correct and 4 facts are correctly given that the student learned about the Underground Railroad. The student clearly states how the Underground Railroad has affected our lives today, but a lack of understanding is noticed. The answer contains detail.</p>	<p>Information is correct on 2-3 facts and show what the student learned about the Underground Railroad. The student does not state clearly how the Underground Railroad has affected our lives today and some misunderstanding of the topic is noticed.</p>	<p>Information is correct on only 1 fact and shows what the student learned about the Underground Railroad. The student does not state how the Underground Railroad has affected our lives today and a complete misunderstanding of the topic is noticed.</p>