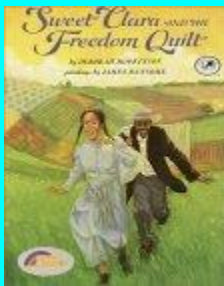


# A Secret of the Underground

## Railroad



**Subject:** U.S History

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**Topic:** The Underground Railroad

**Lesson Length:** 60 Minutes

### **Objectives:**

1. The students will be able to recognize the importance of runaway slave ads.
2. The students will be able to trace Underground Railroad routes of escape.
3. The students will create two quilt squares for the class quilt.

### **Materials/Technology**

- \*Overhead projector
- \*Transparency of an example of a reward for a slave
- \*A variety of children's books on the Underground Railroad including Sweet Clara and The Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson.
- \*pre cut quilt squares for your class (2 for each student)
- \* yarn for the stitching
- \* a map of the most common routes for the slaves to escape slavery

### **Procedure**

1. The teacher will begin by asking the children what they know about the Underground Railroad. The children will use their prior knowledge to discuss the Underground Railroad. The teacher will then clarify anything the children have said and review with the children. The teacher will make sure the children understand what the Underground Railroad is and show them a map of routes the slaves have taken to escape slavery.
2. The teacher will also discuss the many symbols that people on the Underground Railroad would use to help the slaves.
3. The teacher will then share with the class the sample of a reward that slave owners have posted to find their runaway slaves. Make sure that you read the reward and talk about how they describe the slave.
4. The teacher will then share with the class the many children's books that are available. The teacher will share some of the pictures and talk about them.

5. The teacher will then introduce the book Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson. The teacher will have the students make predictions on what the book may be about. The teacher will then read the book to the children. The teacher may want to stop through the book to point out certain things to explain them further. The teacher will then see if the predictions came true and get feedback about the book.
6. The teacher will then discuss with the class that they will be making a class freedom quilt. Each student will create two quilt squares for the quilt. On the back of the square they need to have a brief description of the symbol and it's importance to the Underground Railroad. The teacher will then show the children a sample of a quilt square.
7. The teacher will then give the students time to create their quilt squares allowing them to look through the books if needed.

### **Student Assessment**

1. The teacher will assess the students by their participation in the discussion of the Underground Railroad and the book.
2. The teacher will also assess them by the completion of their quilt squares.

### **Rubric for quilt squares**

Each quilt square must have a symbol on the front and a description on the back. The quilt square must have yarn weaved around it to make it look like stitching.

### **Related Sources**

Hopkinson, Deborah. Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt. Knopf. 1993.

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