Finding the Real Underground Railroad

Advanced Placement United States History 10\textsuperscript{th}/11\textsuperscript{th} Grades
Textbooks

The American Pageant

JOSEPH DESHA (1768-1842)

As governor, Desha became major proponent of debtor relief. The Pennsylvania native, under Wayne and Harrison, fought Indians and led troops at Battle of Thames, 1813. Elected from Mason Co. to Ky. legislature and Congress. During his 1824-28 term as governor, he favored the controversial reorganization of Ky. Court of Appeals. Desha was buried in Georgetown, Ky. Over.
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE
WAS A GUEST IN THIS HOUSE
IN 1833

PLACED BY
"WASHINGTON STUDY CLUB"
Lesson Objective/Purpose

“The myths that grew out of the Underground Railroad have become virtual gospel and accepted as fact throughout American popular culture, and unfortunately in parts of American academia”. (JL, June 2005) It is time to find the real Underground Railroad.
Upon completion of this lesson Students will:

1. Comprehend the complex and intricate nature of how the Underground Railroad worked.

2. Understand the motives of the people who “conducted” the Underground Railroad.
Objectives: continued

3. Explain the complex motivations behind the decisions of the enslaved people. Would you run or stay? Why or Why not?

4. Integrate their understanding of the Underground Railroad into the overall picture of how slavery functioned in American society prior to the Civil War, and how, after the Fugitive Slave Bill of 1850 became law; the activities of the Underground Railroad were a key element in the events from 1850 to 1860 that led to the outbreak of the war.
Introductory Lecture

The Underground Railroad: Ordinary people doing extraordinary things. The UGRR is an important American contribution to the study of human rights worldwide and is vital to understanding Pre-Civil War America and the length and breadth of American History up to and including our own time.
ELIZA'S TALE

In the winter of 1838 a slave woman and her baby began their journey for freedom. To avoid capture in Kentucky she crossed the ice from the Ohio River to the banks of the Ohio River. The story of Eliza in "Incidents" was based on this incident.
Instructional Input

Vocabulary Exercise

Students will construct a paragraph simulating a conversation or written communication between two or three people involved in the Underground Railroad using the symbols and code language that was employed to avoid detection and maintain secrecy.

After the paragraphs have been turned in students will be asked to translate a paragraph (not their own!) to the class.
Modeling

Field Trips

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, Ohio (1 Day)

Homes of John P. Parker and Rev. John Rankin, Ripley, Ohio

Church/Cemetery, Red Oak, Ohio (1 Day)

Reaction Essays for both field trips will be required.
(Continued from other side) This is the restored home of John P. Parker, a noted African-American entrepreneur, inventor, and abolitionist. Born into slavery in Virginia in 1827, Parker purchased his freedom as a young man in Alabama. Parker later settled in Ripley, where he became a self-trained iron manufacturer, established the Phoenix Foundry, and invented the Parker Portable Screw Press (for tobacco) and a soil pulverizer. Parker was one of the few African-Americans to obtain a U.S. Patent before 1900.

During the Antebellum years, Parker became an important, if unheralded, conductor on the Underground Railroad, risking his life to aid more than nine hundred fugitive slaves in their journey to freedom. Parker also recruited soldiers for the Fifth United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. The story of Parker's efforts to guide escaped slaves across the Ohio River is told in his autobiography, entitled *His Promised Land*. The Parker House received designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1997.

OHIO BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
THE LONGABERGER COMPANY
JOHN P. PARKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2001
REVEREND JOHN RANKIN HOUSE

HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

THIS HOUSE WAS THE HOME OF AN ABOLITIONIST FAMILY AND CONDUCTOR OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IMMORTALIZED IN HARRIET BEECHER STOWE'S UNCLE TOMS CABIN AND POSSESSES NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE IN COMMEMORATING THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1997

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Guided Practice

You are an enslaved person who has decided to escape. Write diary/journal entries documenting your journey. What did you see? Who did you see? How did you journey? How did you eat/sleep? This assignment should be at least three typed pages and incorporate all that we have learned about enslaved people using the Underground Railroad.
Independent Practice

Book Critique

Using the procedures enclosed in your writing assignments packet, choose one of the following books to write a critique. Any books not on the list must be approved by the teacher before work begins. This assignment will be due on the last day of the quarter.
Books


Chadwick, Burke. 1999. *Traveling the Underground Railroad*. Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press. Contains a useful selection of thumbnail sketches of people and buildings important to the Underground Railroad, as well as an overall history of the UGRR.

Books


Books


Books


Tobin, Jacqueline L. and Dobard, Raymond G. 1999. *Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad*. New York: Doubleday. Relates the story of how directions to freedom were coded into patterns in slave quilts, and how both the quilt tradition and codes were passed from generation to generation in one South Carolina African-American family.
The Underground Railroad:
A Selective Bibliography for Children and Youth
David M. Bishop and Denise Dallmer
Northern Kentucky University College of Education
Copyright 2003, Dallmer and Bishop
Permission to reprint bibliography granted for educational purposes only, provided that authorship is acknowledged.
Research

Arrangements have been made with local university libraries for AP students enrolled in this class to use those libraries to locate the above mentioned books, as well as other media sources.
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