



The Underground Railroad

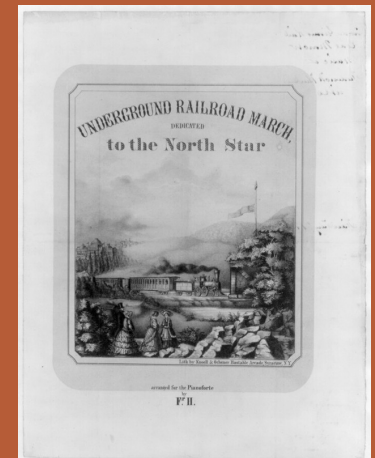


At one time in the U.S., you could own another person. This person was usually made to do all the work their owner wanted them to do. These people were enslaved by their owner. Most of these people came from Africa. Many wanted to get their freedom.

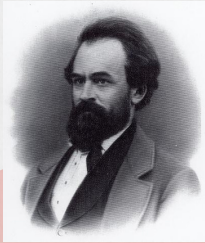


Some people did not like this system of slavery. Helpers made a way for freedom seekers to get away from masters. The Underground Railroad was not a train for people to ride to freedom on. Railroad words were used to keep the system a secret. They helped keep the runaways safe. "Tracks" were paths north. A "depot" was a place to stay. This painting shows runaways getting help to a "depot".

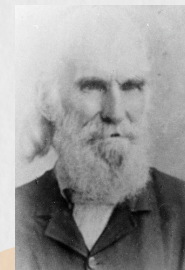
This song, Underground Railroad March, was written in 1855. The people who wrote it wanted all people to be free. It says "To the North Star". Looking for the North Star in the night sky was a way to keep on the path if the runaways got lost. The North Star would help them go the right way. The North Star was easier to find if you could spot The Big Dipper in the sky. The Big Dipper looks like a big spoon.



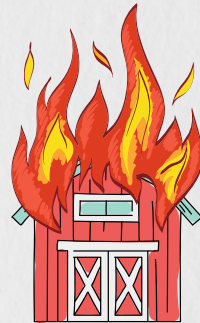
THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE WAKARUSA RIVER VALLEY



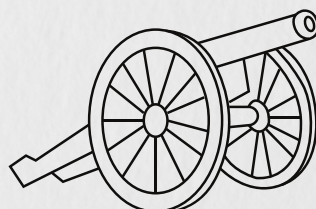
Joseph Gardner helped take runaways to safe places. He gave them food and a place to stay. His family would help, too.



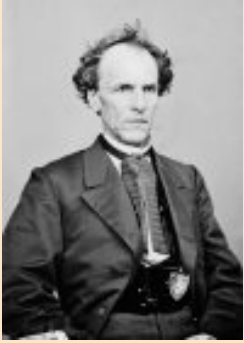
Dr. Eliab Macy helped people run, too. Some men found out and burned two of his buildings. They wanted him to stop helping!



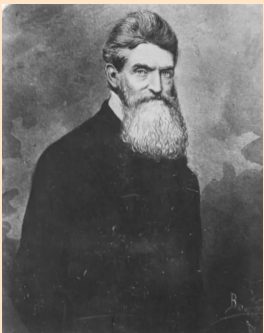
George Washington escaped to Kansas. Then he fought in the Civil War. After that he settled in this area. He married and had a family.



The Underground Railroad Across Kansas



This man, James Lane, helped form Lane's Trail. It was a route that showed people to freedom. The men that helped him stacked rocks to show the way.



John Brown came to Kansas to help the runaways. He was sometimes mean to those who were against him. Some didn't like this. He is famous for his raid to get weapons for the freedom fighters.



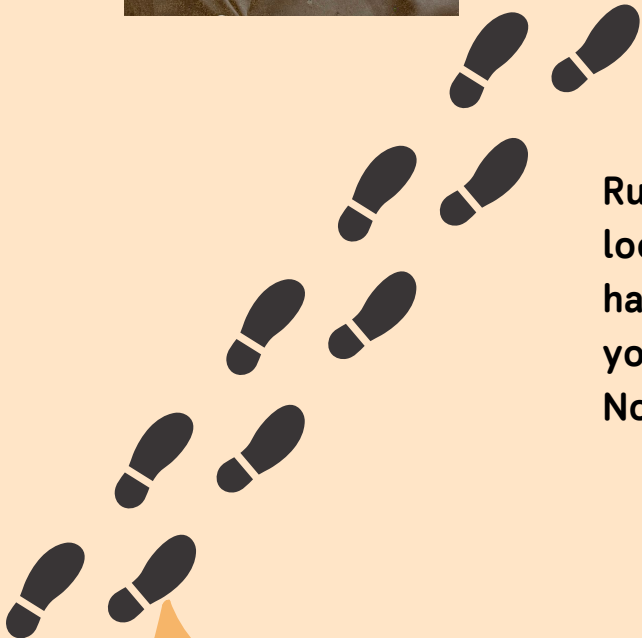
Quindaro was a town on the Missouri River. People would pass through here on the way to freedom. It was a good place to hide freedom seekers. This statue honors John Brown.



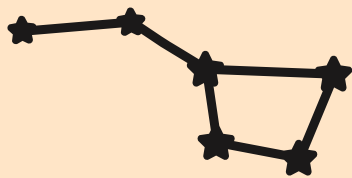
The Underground Railroad Across the United States



Harriet Tubman is very famous for her work. She escaped slavery. Then she went back to help others. She saved close to 300 people.



Runaways were told to find the Big Dipper. It looked like a gourd made into a cup with a handle. This helped to find the North Star. If you could find that you could keep heading North. This is where freedom could be found.



Activity

1. Make a picture on your paper. It does not matter what you color.
2. Roll your paper into a tube shape. Make the circle the size of your eye.
3. Tape or glue one side to the other. Tape works best if you have it.
4. Ask an adult to take you outside at night. Use your telescope and see if you can find the Big Dipper. From the end of the cup head up. The bright star you see in the Little Dipper will be the North Star.
5. This is a pretend telescope. It won't make things closer. It will help your eye focus.
6. Write four sentences about looking for the North Star. Did you find it? What kept you from finding it? Did you like looking at the stars? How were stars important to the Underground Railroad? (Families, if you're child is not a writer they may tell you the answers and you may write them down.)
7. Bring your telescope and sentences to your museum. Now you can pick your prize. Your name will be put in the raffle for bigger prizes at the end of the summer!



Underground Railroad Quiz for Online Users
Send the words "Wakarusa-Underground Railroad"
and your answers to cpreat@watkinsmuseum.org.

Students who miss one or less than one will receive a prize and be entered into a raffle.

- 1. Where did most enslaved people come from in the beginning of the slave trade?**
 - a. France**
 - b. Mexico**
 - c. Africa**
 - d. England**
- 2. What was the Underground Railroad?**
 - a. trains that would take enslaved people away from their owner**
 - b. a system of moving enslaved people to the North**
 - c. a train that runs under a city**
 - d. a system of moving pioneers to Oregon**
- 3. What former slave is well known for helping others get to freedom?**
 - a. Harriet Tubman**
 - b. Betsy Ross**
 - c. Grandma Moses**
 - d. Sara Robinson**
- 4. What small town on the Missouri River did many enslaved people pass through on their way to freedom?**
 - a. Wyandotte**
 - b. Quindaro**
 - c. Lawrence**
 - d. Leavenworth**
- 5. Which Underground Railroad helper would you like to meet?**
 - a. John Brown**
 - b. Harriet Tubman**
 - c. Joseph Gardner**
 - d. Dr. Eliab Macy**