



Subject: History & Language Arts

Grade: 3rd and 4th

Topic: Underground Railroad

Lesson Length: 2 class periods

Objectives:

- 1) To create a quilt based on important aspects from the Underground Railroad
- 2) Use appropriate technology and reference materials to research a topic about the Underground Railroad.
- 3) Write a paragraph based on the research that will include important information regarding the Underground Railroad.

Materials/Technology:

- Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson
- Computers with Internet access
- Underground Railroad Resources (it would be a good idea to research your local community to spark student interest)
- Access to the library
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Procedures:

- 1) Review what the Underground Railroad is and important parts about it.
- 2) Read Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson.
- 3) Discuss the book.
- 4) Explain that they will be choosing a topic to research. After completing the research, they will be pulling the important information to put into a paragraph. Students will use the information they find to make a Freedom Quilt. See this site for examples:
<http://www.beavton.k12.or.us/Greenway/leahy/ugrr/index.htm>
- 5) After explaining the process, show students the available resources and allow them to start working. Students should also have access to the

Internet. There are useful web sites listed below. You may want to schedule a trip to the library or set up a time to visit the computer lab.

- 6) After students have finished researching, they will write a paragraph containing important information about their topic.
- 7) They will then put their paragraph on a square that will become part of the Freedom Quilt.
- 8) You can display the Freedom Quilt on a bulletin board or wall when finished.

9) Here are a list of possible topics:

John Parker	John Rankin
Harriet Beecher Stowe (Uncle Tom's Cabin)	Village of Mt. Pleasant Historic District
Harriet Tubman	Frederick Douglass
William and Ellen Craft	Levi and Catherine Coffin
Henry "Box" Brown	Eliza Harris
Sojourner Truth	Wilson Bruce Evans House
Rush R. Sloane House	Daniel Howell Hise House
Col. William Hubbard House	Reuben Benedict House
Sammy and Sally Wilson House	James and Sophia Clemens Farmstead
Fugitive Slave Law	Dred Scott

Student Assessment:

Students must have 3-5 important facts regarding the Underground Railroad. They must also have a topic sentence and a concluding sentence.

Resources:

A) Web Site Links:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/underground/states.htm>

<http://www.beavton.k12.or.us/Greenway/leahy/ugrr/index.htm>

<http://www.ils.unc.edu/nc/LeviCoffin.html>

<http://www.ket.org/underground/>

<http://www.undergroundrailroad.org>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p1535.html>

B) Children's Literature:

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

The Drinking Gourd by F.N. Monjo

Freedom Train the Story of Harriet Tubman by Dorothy Sterling

Frederick Douglass Fights for Freedom by Margaret Davidson

From Slave Ship to Freedom Road by Julius Lester

Get on Board The Story of the Underground Railroad by Jim Haskins

Nettie's Trip South by Ann Turner

Sojourner Truth Ain't I a Woman by Patricia C. and Fredrick McKissack

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson

Two Tickets to Freedom the True Story of William and Ellen Craft, Fugitive
Slaves by Florence B. Freedman

"Wanted Dead or Alive" the True Story of Harriet Tubman by Ann McGovern