

The Underground Railroad

**Creating Instructional Unit Resource Guides
Based on Principles of Universal Design and Differentiated Instruction**



**Social Studies
Focusing on 4th Grade Social Studies and English Standards
Cleveland Elementary UDL Team
Elkhart Community Schools
Elkhart, Indiana**

Authors' Note

Welcome to a Fourth Grade Experience at Cleveland Elementary. We are a team of administrators, teachers, and a paraprofessional. We are participating in the UDL/Patins Project, “Universal Design for Learning” in Elkhart, Indiana



Cleveland Elementary School

For this pilot we have developed this academic unit about the Underground Railroad. This unit has been designed for Fourth Grade, however, it could be modified for any class studying the Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad Unit was designed to work with a standards-based unit involving fourth grade social studies and language arts standards.

Academic Standards

Social Studies

- **4.1.7** Explain the roles of various individuals, groups, and movements in the social conflicts leading to the Civil War.
- **4.1.8** Summarize the participation of Indiana citizens in the Civil War.
- **4.5.1** Identify ways that social groups* influence individual behavior and responsibilities.
- **4.5.2** Identify the different types of social groups to which people belong and the functions these groups perform.
- **4.5.3** Define the term cultural group* and give examples of the challenges faced by diverse cultural groups in Indiana history.
- **4.5.6** Investigate the contributions and challenges experienced by people from various cultural, racial, and religious groups in Indiana during different historical periods by reading biographies, historical accounts, stories, and electronic media, such as CD-ROMs and Web sites.

Language Arts

- **4.1.1** Read aloud grade-level-appropriate narrative text (stories) and expository text (information) with fluency and accuracy and with appropriate timing, changes in voice, and expression.
- **4.2.1** Use the organization of informational text to strengthen comprehension.
- **4.4.3** Write informational pieces with multiple paragraphs that:
 - provide an introductory paragraph.
 - establish and support a central idea with a topic sentence at or near the beginning of the first paragraph.
 - include supporting paragraphs with simple facts, details, and explanations.
 - present important ideas or events in sequence or in chronological order.
 - provide details and transitions to link paragraphs.
 - conclude with a paragraph that summarizes the points.
 - use correct indentation at the beginning of paragraphs.
- **4.4.6** Locate information in reference texts by using organizational features, such as prefaces and appendixes.
- **4.5.3** Write informational reports that:
 - ask a central question about an issue or situation.
 - include facts and details for focus.
 - use more than one source of information, including speakers, books, newspapers, media sources, and online information.



Planning Pyramid

Some students will know:

- The reasons that tensions increased between the North and South
- Why many people joined the antislavery movement after 1850
- The reason for Article XIII of Indiana's 1851 constitution
- The actual effects of the Fugitive Slave Act versus what Congress expected
- How Article XIII affected the life of John Freeman
- How to find and use the Big Dipper, or Drinking Gourd, to locate the North Star, Polaris

Most students will know:

- The Fugitive Slave Act was part of the Compromise of 1850
- The requirements of citizens under the Fugitive Slave Act
- The purposes of the Fugitive Slave Act
- How Article XIII affected runaway slaves, and free African Americans
- How songs like "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Follow the Drinking Gourd" related to the Underground Railroad
- Underground Railroad Code Words and Phrases
- Advantages and disadvantages of slaves escaping in the winter versus summer
- That the Underground Railroad ran through the 14 free states
- Why Uncle Tom's Cabin was important to the antislavery movement
- Why Newport, IN was known as the Grand Central Station of the Underground Railroad
- Underground Railroad Code Phrases

All students will know:

- Before 1850, slaves could not be chased into the free states
- The Fugitive Slave Act made it against the law to help escaped slaves
- What happened to the abolition movement as a result of the Fugitive Slave Act
- Article XIII made it illegal for African Americans to come or live in Indiana
- What happened to African Americans who were accused of being runaway slaves
- How the Underground Railroad worked
- Why it was dangerous for slaves to try to escape
- What kind of things the abolitionists did to help enslaved African Americans
- Escape routes stretched from the southern slave states into the North and on to Canada.
- Underground Railroad Code Words
- Why Indiana's location made it an important part of the Underground Railroad
- That three major routes of the Underground Railroad passed through Indiana
- The role Levi and Catharine Coffin played in the Underground Railroad
- Harriet Beecher Stowe published Uncle Tom's Cabin
- When a group of slaves were going to escape to the north, they would sing a song called "Follow the Drinking Gourd."
- The stars in the Drinking Gourd were used as a map that led north to freedom

Teacher Library #1

Internet Resources

Levi Coffin House

<http://www.waynet.org/nonprofit/coffin.htm>

Levi Coffin House

This website is about the legendary Levi and Catharine Coffin who helped many former slaves escape to freedom in the North. The site discusses the role they play and includes pictures of their Federal style brick home built in 1839 which is now a National Historic Landmark and museum. The site also include lesson plans and other Underground Railroad resources.

Levi Coffin House
State Historic Site

A part of the legendary Underground Railroad for fleeing slaves of pre-Civil War days, this registered National Historic Landmark is a Federal style brick home built in 1839.

Levi and Catharine Coffin were legendary in helping many former slaves escape to freedom in the North. Levi is often referred to as the President of the Underground Railroad.

Life for a runaway slave was full of hazards. The journey to freedom meant traveling only a few miles at night, using the North Star as a map and trying to avoid search parties. Often, escaped slaves would hide in homes or on the property of antislavery supporters. These stops to freedom were called Underground Railroad stations because they resembled stops a train would make between destinations. "Underground" refers to the secret nature of the system.

To the thousand of escaped slaves, an eight-room Federal style brick home in Newport (Fountain City), Indiana, became a safe haven on their journey to Canada. This was the home of Levi and

Escaping slaves could be hidden in this small upstairs room and the beds moved in front of the door to hide its existence.

Institute for Freedom Studies

<http://www.nku.edu/~undergroundrr/lessonplans/>

PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/tguide/4/index.html>

History Channel

<http://www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/?page=exhibits2>

National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/undergroundrr/contents.htm>

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

<http://www.freedomcenter.org/>

New York History Net – The Life of Harriet Tubman

<http://www.nyhistory.com/harriettubman/life.htm>

Women of the Underground Railroad

<http://www.nps.gov/wori/archives/ugrrexhibit.htm>

Harriet Tubman mini unit

<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/TLresources/units/Byrnes-famous/tubman.html>

Educator's Guide to Follow the Drinking Gourd

<http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/planetarium/ftdg1.htm>

Underground Railroad sites in Indiana

http://www.freedomcenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.viewPage&page_id=34153477-DBC4-4AB3-994B2938FE55D38E

National Geographic Society – A Journey through the Underground Railroad

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad/j1.html>

Teacher Library #2

Book Resources

Harriet Tubman : Conductor on the Underground Railroad

by Ann Petry
Paperback (March 1996)
HarperTrophy; ISBN: 0064461815

Soon Be Free

by Lois Ruby
School & Library Binding - 240 pages (August 2000)
Simon & Schuster (Juv); ISBN: 0689832664

North Star to Freedom : The Story of the Underground Railroad

by Clement Oubrerie (Illustrator), et al
Paperback - 192 pages (February 2000)
Delacorte Pr; ISBN: 0385326076

Get on Board : The Story of the Underground Railroad

by Jim Haskins
Paperback Reissue edition (May 1997)
Scholastic Trade; ISBN: 0590454196

The Underground Railroad in American History (In American History)

by Kem Knapp Sawyer
Library Binding - 128 pages (June 1997)
Enslow Publishers, Inc.; ISBN: 0894908855

The Underground Railroad

by Joe Loesch, Brian T. Cox (Illustrator)
Paperback - 60 pages (October 1, 1999)
Toy Box Productions; ISBN: 1887729178

Harriet Tubman : Leader of the Underground Railroad (Famous Figures of the Civil War Era)

by Norma Jean Lutz, et al
Library Binding - 80 pages (March 2001)
Chelsea House Publishing; ISBN: 0791061469

Harriet Tubman : The Road to Freedom (Easy Biographies)

by Rae Bains, Larry Johnson (Illustrator)
Paperback - 48 pages (January 1990)
Troll Communications; ISBN: 0893757616

North Star to Freedom : The Story of the Underground Railroad

by Rosemary Brown (Introduction), Gena Kinton Gorrell
Hardcover - 184 pages (February 1997)
Delacorte Pr; ISBN: 0385323190

A Winding Road to Freedom

by Randall Wisheart
Paperback - 184 pages (December 1999)
Friends United Press; ISBN: 094435047X

If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad

by Ellen Levine, Larry Johnson (Illustrator)
Paperback Reissue edition (February 1993)
Scholastic Trade; ISBN: 0590451561

The Underground Railroad

by Raymond Bial
Hardcover - 48 pages (February 1995)
Houghton Mifflin Co (Juv); ISBN: 0395699371

Stealing Freedom

by Elisa Lynn Carbone
Hardcover - 160 pages (December 1998)
Knopf; ISBN: 0679893075

Many Thousand Gone : African Americans from Slavery to Freedom

by Virginia Hamilton, Leo Dillon (Illustrator), Diane Dillon (Illustrator)
Paperback - 160 pages (January 2, 2002)
Knopf; ISBN: 0679879366

Steal Away

by Jennifer Armstrong
Paperback Reprint edition (September 1993)
Scholastic Paperbacks; ISBN: 0590469215

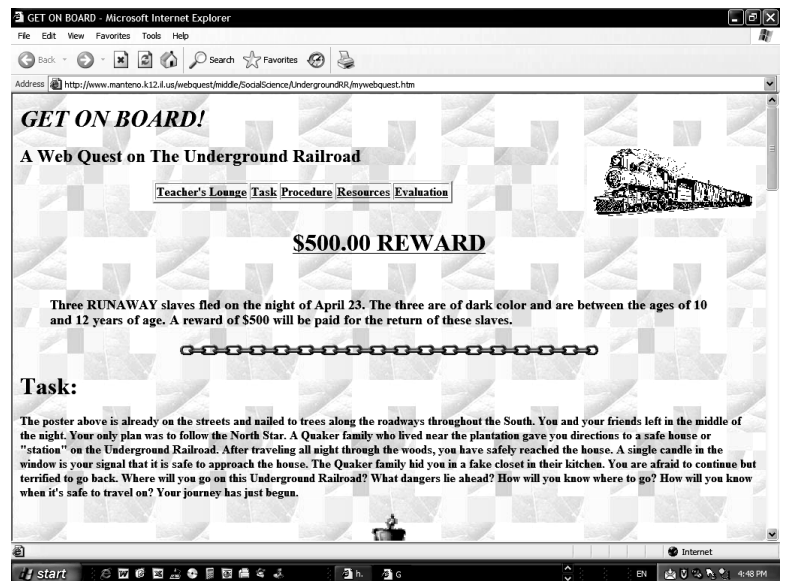
Running for Our Lives

by Glennette Tilley Turner, Samuel Byrd (Illustrator)
School & Library Binding - 198 pages 1 Ed edition (April 1994)
Holiday House; ISBN: 0823411214

Learner Activities

Students will perform an Underground Railroad WebQuest

- Get On Board! A WebQuest on the Underground Railroad
<http://www.manteno.k12.il.us/webquest/middle/SocialScience/UndergroundRR/mywebquest.htm>
- The Underground Railroad A WebQuest
<http://www.edci.purdue.edu/vanfossen/ugrr.html>
- The Underground Railroad: WebQuest
<http://web.archive.org/web/20040409132349/http://www.plainfield.k12.in.us/hschool/webq/webq50/ugrrwbst.htm>



Students will tell The Underground Railroad Story in Quilts

- Threads of Freedom – The Underground Railroad Story in Quilts
http://www.oberlin.edu/external/EOG/threads_of_freedom/threads2.html
- Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/socialstd/grade5/Sweet_Clara.html
- Quilts of the Underground Railroad
<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/TLresources/units/Byrnes-S2000/TaraTimothy/slavequilt.htm>

Students will create a timeline poster of the events of the Underground Railroad

- Timeline of events related to slavery
http://www.freedomcenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.viewPage&page_id=1FA7DFF4-6A03-4194-98431AB1D50BBA14
- National Geographic – Timeline
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad/tl.html>
- Boston African-American National Historical Site
<http://www.nps.gov/boaf/urchronology.htm>

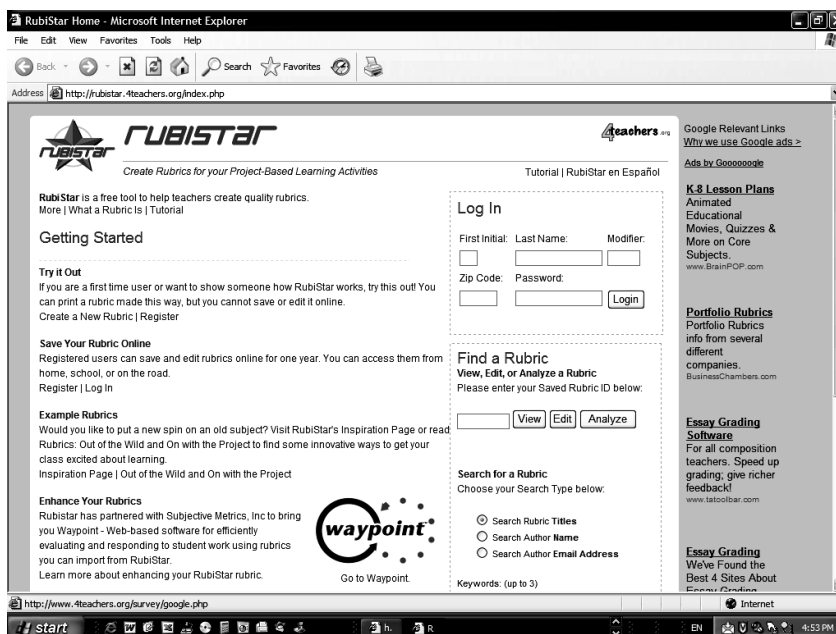
Assessment

Rubrics will be used to assess the following student projects:

- Underground Railroad WebQuest
- Underground Railroad Story Quilt
- Underground Railroad Events Timeline Poster

The following resources will be utilized to generate rubrics

- RubiStar
<http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php>



- Rubric Builder
http://landmark-project.com/classweb/tools/rubric_builder.php
- Shambles Rubrics
<http://www.shambles.net/pages/staff/rubrics/>
- Rubrician
<http://www.rubrician.com/general.htm>

Modification

Learner Barrier	Possible Solutions	Web Link Resources
Student cannot read at grade level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurzweil 3000 • Reading Pen • Smartboard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readplease www.readplease.com • Smart Technologies http://www.smarttech.com/ • Kurzweil 3000 training page http://www.indiana.edu/~iuadapt/s/k3000/k3000.html
Student has difficulty comprehending the material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiration Software • Summarize using Smartboard • Thinking Reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiration Software http://www.inspiration.com • Thinking Reader http://www.tomsnyder.com/products/product.asp?SKU=THITHI • Brain Pop www.brainpop.com
Student has difficulty mastering the vocabulary of the unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Pen • Smartboard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merriam Webster www.m-w.com • Smart Technologies http://www.smarttech.com/
Student needs the instructional material in a language other than English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENL Teacher • Material translated into student's language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babel Fish www.Babelfish.com • Readplease www.readplease.com
Student has difficulty with handwriting (speed or accuracy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Writer • WriteOutLoud • Dana Alpha Smart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Johnston Products http://www.donjohnston.com/catalog/cow4000dfrm.htm
Student needs additional challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student develops their own WebQuest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WebQuest Page http://webquest.sdsu.edu/
Student has difficulty with calculating activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student can seek help online for various math calculating activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webmath www.webmath.com
Student needs help with conducting research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer with internet access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google www.google.com • Trackstar www.trackstar.com