

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

escape from slavery

WRITE ABOUT IT

ESCAPE! THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Have you explored all the resources in “Escape! The Underground Railroad”? To start, listen to the story of the runaway slave, then click around the scene to learn more about how slaves made their escapes and found their way. In the audio slideshow, you’ll find out how the Underground Railroad helped slaves reach freedom. Then try to “Write a Secret Letter” and complete a coded letter using some of the secret language of the Underground Railroad. After you’ve explored these resources, answer these questions.

1. Why did some enslaved African Americans try to escape from their owners? Why was this such a dangerous act?

2. How did most slaves travel when they escaped? How did they find their way?

3. What were some of the worst dangers and challenges that runaway slaves faced?

4. How did runaways try to avoid getting caught? What happened if they were caught?

5. What was the Underground Railroad? Who were the “passengers” and the “conductors”?

6. Why did the Underground Railroad have to be so secretive? What are some ways that people on the Underground Railroad kept their work – and runaway slaves – hidden?
