

(This lesson should be implemented only after an introductory/overview lesson on the Underground Railroad.)

Engagement:

1. Begin by playing an Underground Railroad game.
2. Give one student a green star and have he/she place it in his/her palm. (This student represents a conductor on the Underground Railroad.)
3. Give two students yellow stars and have them place them in their palm. (These students represent the free Blacks who helped the slaves on the Underground Railroad.)
4. Give three students red stars and have them place them in their palm. (These students represent the slave catchers.)
5. The rest of the students represent the slaves and do not receive any stars.
6. The objective of the game is for the slaves to get to the North (designated spot in the classroom) by trying to find out who the conductor is. If the slaves find the slave catchers, they are taken back to the South (the student's seat). The free Blacks help the slave locate the conductors. (If a student finds a free Black, he/she can stay in the game and continue looking for the conductor.)
7. After the students have played the game, encourage the students to take part in a discussion. Use the following questions as prompts:
How did you determine who the conductor was?
How did you feel when you were caught by the slave catcher?
What would have helped you find the conductor?

Exploration:

1. Split the class into groups of four or five.
2. Have each group choose a book about the signs of the Underground Railroad. The following is a list a books that could be used:

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt

Secret Signs

Follow the Drinking Gourd

*Teaching Strategies	Whole group; small group; interdisciplinary instruction in literature, history, and geography
*Assessments (key questions to simulate critical thinking)	<p>Were students able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the frustrations of navigating the Underground Railroad? List the symbols and signs used to communicate on the Underground Railroad? Describe the signs used on the Underground Railroad? Apply what they have learned about the signs of the Underground Railroad to the extension project? <p>This should be assessed through small group and Individual observation. Students should also be evaluated on their quality of participation in both the discussion and the culminating activity.</p>
Adaptations and/or Extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have students make a class quilt that communicates a message similar to the way quilts were used during the Underground Railroad. Teach tessellation's in quilt patterns Discuss constellations using the Big Dipper and the North Star as a springboard Make a "Choose your own Adventure" game with <i>PowerPoint</i>, <i>Dreamweaver</i>, <i>Flash</i>, or a web page Analyze the meaning of Spirituals Write your own spirituals