

Welcome to Thinkport's Student Activity Center! Your teacher has directed you to this student activity to help you learn more about the topic you are studying.

Title: Escape This Way!

Audience: Middle

Duration: 45 minutes

Subject Area(s):

Language Arts - Reading

Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

Student Directions:

You hate your life. You work long hours each day for someone else who doesn't care what is good for you or for your family. You are unpaid, and often treated harshly. You want to run away, but it is just so risky. There are dangers all along the way. You could be caught and punished. You or your family could even be killed.

But you feel that staying is killing you, too.

It is difficult to imagine being faced with this dilemma. But for many slaves in the United States in the 1800's, it was all too real. In this activity, you will have the opportunity to put yourself in the place of a young Maryland slave in the 1800's and make some of the decisions slaves might have had to make as they escaped from slavery. Having experienced these situations, you will be writing down clues you've discovered that might be helpful to the next slave that tries to find his or her way to freedom, and making a sign based on those clues. Pay close attention - it may mean the difference between success and failure!

The Students will:

Summarize and explain factors that slaves might have considered when escaping.

Directions: In the Following the Footsteps interactive, you will learn about some of the factors that slaves considered while planning and executing their escape. As you work in the interactive, your task is to write down clues on the Escape Clues Part 1 worksheet that will improve a slave's chances to reach freedom successfully.

Escape Clues Part 1 [\(View\)](#)

Directions: Open the Following the Footsteps interactive below. Read the information on this introductory screen. Click on Go to the Interactive. This will open a new window called Following the Footsteps. Begin the interactive by clicking on Continue beneath this title. Use the speaker icon to listen to the words of the story. You may pause or turn off this narration at any time. Since the objective of this activity is to learn clues about how best to escape from slavery, choose to escape when given the choice.

Pathways to Freedom: Maryland & the Underground Railroad

Following the Footsteps The *Following the Footsteps* interactive on the Pathways to Freedom: Maryland & the Underground Railroad Website allows you to face the decisions a young Maryland slave in the 1800's might have faced as he planned and executed his escape from slavery. You may complete this section of the interactive more than once, making different decisions each time, and compare the results of your decisions.

<http://pathways.thinkport.org/following/>

What kinds of things did slaves need to consider as they executed their escape from slavery?

Directions: Once you have collected several clues from the Following the Footsteps interactive, create a sign on the Escape Clues Part 2 worksheet below that will help other slaves who want to escape to freedom. Remember, many slaves were unable to read or write. While it is acceptable to include words in your sign, you will need to include pictures to get your point across.

Escape Clues Part 2 ([View](#))

Directions: Use the Sample Escape Clues Part 2 worksheet as an example for students. The drawing it contains correlates to the first clue on the Escape Clues Part 1 worksheet.

Sample Escape Clues Part 2 ([View](#))

Activity Signature

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