

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: Which Way to Freedom?

Audience: Middle

Duration: 45 Minutes

Subject Area(s):

Social Studies - Geography

Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

Student Directions:

Have you ever wondered how fugitive Maryland slaves found their way to freedom? Today you will explore the routes of the Underground Railroad to find out how people escaped to freedom.

3.0 CONTENT STANDARD: GEOGRAPHY – Students will use geographic concepts and processes to examine the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location and distribution of human activities and spatial connections throughout time.

Grade 4

A. Using Geographic Tools

1. Use geographic tools to locate places and describe the human and physical characteristics of those places

a Interpret a variety of maps using map elements

a. Describe geographic characteristics of Maryland/United States using resources, such as photographs, maps, charts, graphs and atlases

b. Use photographs, maps, charts, graphs and atlases to describe geographic characteristics of Maryland and the United States

c. Identify and locate natural and physical features of Maryland such as Appalachian Mountains, Piedmont Plateau and Atlantic Coastal Plain

d. Identify and locate natural/physical features of Maryland

Grade 8

A. Using Geographic Tools

1. Use geographic tools to analyze geographic issues and problems

a. Locate places and describe the human and physical characteristics using thematic maps, such as settlement patterns, migration, population density, transportation and communication networks prior to 1877

The Students will:

be able to identify various routes of the Underground Railroad in Maryland and explain why these routes were chosen.

Directions: You are responsible for researching key geographic characteristics of Maryland and for explaining how these physical characteristics will impact escaping slaves' journeys on the Underground Railroad routes. Open the site and scroll down to and click on the "Go to the Interactive" button. This will open a new browser window. Once the window opens, click on the "Start" button. Click on the "Geography" section of the interactive and move the mouse over the map clicking on the highlighted dots to learn about the geography of Maryland and the surrounding areas.

Mapping It Out

Maryland's Underground Railroad hid many fugitive slaves as they made their way to freedom. This site provides you with an opportunity to explore the routes that led these people to freedom.

<http://pathways.thinkport.org/about/ugrr.cfm>

What key physical geographic characteristics of Maryland impacted slaves' journeys on the Underground Railroad?

Directions: Next, click on the "Routes to Freedom" link. You are responsible for identifying important geographic characteristics of the three escape routes of Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass and James Pennington.

Mapping It Out

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What Underground Railroad routes did Maryland's fugitive slaves take to lead them to freedom?

Directions: Now you will pretend that you are a conductor on the Underground Railroad and you will lead fugitive slaves out of Maryland along one of the routes. Open the Escape to Freedom Map and Directions for Escape to Freedom Map handouts. Select one of the routes on the interactive as the path on which you will lead the slaves to freedom. Draw the route you have selected on the map. Include the following items on the map: beginning and ending points, stations (safe houses), and terrain, such as rivers, mountains, flatlands, open fields, cornfields, woods, swamps, and caves. You may use the map on the interactive to see some of the terrain the trail covered, such as mountains, rivers and flat lands. Other items, such as safe houses, caves, cornfields and woods will be added as you see fit. Use what you learned about the geography of Maryland to choose and explain which route you think is best.

Escape to Freedom Map [\(View\)](#)

Directions for Escape to Freedom Map [\(View\)](#)

Directions: Use the Escape to Freedom Rubric to assess your work. Note: We will never know the exact course that escaping slaves took to freedom, so your map will not be an exact replica of what they encountered on the journey, but it will contain a sampling of what they may have experienced along the way.

Escape to Freedom Map Rubric [\(View\)](#)

Grade 4

C. Movement of People, Goods and Ideas

1. Explain how transportation and communication networks link places through the movement of people, goods and ideas

c. Identify the reasons for the movement of peoples to, from and within Maryland and the United States

Activity Signature

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