

## The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad wasn't a railroad at all. It was a group of people who helped slaves escape to freedom. Those in charge of the escape effort were often called **conductors**. The people escaping were known as **passengers**. And the places where the escaping slaves stopped for help were often called **stations**.

1. What does the title tell you the subject of the passage might be? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does the opening sentence **support** or **contradict** your guess? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What kind of railroad is the passage about? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the opening paragraph tell us about who is involved? \_\_\_\_\_

Day 1

Like a train ride, the Underground Railroad moved people along. Those who escaped often followed routes that had been laid out by others before them. However, unlike a train ride, some routes went underground through dirt tunnels without any sort of tracks.

1. What comparison does this paragraph make? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How is the subject like the thing it's compared with? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How is the subject unlike the thing it's compared with? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How does this paragraph make you feel? \_\_\_\_\_

Day 2

Escaping slaves had to be certain that they could find their way. They needed food and water to make the journey. Conductors helped guide them and provide supplies. One of the most famous Underground Railroad conductors was Harriet Tubman. She had escaped slavery herself. Another famous conductor was Levi Coffin.

1. What part of the subject does this paragraph focus on? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name two famous conductors. \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was their job? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What details did you discover about one of the conductors? \_\_\_\_\_

Day 3

Experts disagree about how well the Underground Railroad was organized. Still, it is believed that the system helped thousands of slaves reach freedom between 1830 and 1865.

1. What problem did the Underground Railroad try to solve? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What new details did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many years did the Underground Railroad operate? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Imagine traveling the Underground Railroad. Do you imagine yourself as a slave or a conductor? \_\_\_\_\_

Day 4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Sewing to Slavery, Sewing to Freedom

Many African women were skillful seamstresses. Many of them knew how to sew before they were brought to America as slaves. Skillful seamstresses sold for a high price on the slavery block. Sometimes, they sold for as much as \$1,000.

Some slaves made quilts for their owners. They used the scraps from those quilts to make quilts to keep their own families warm. Those quilts often told the stories of their families. The quilts were called story quilts.

One slave named Elizabeth Keckley used her sewing skill to earn her freedom. In 1855, she earned \$1,200, enough to buy her freedom. As a free woman, she sewed for President Lincoln's wife. She earned enough money to support 17 people.

1. What was the effect of a slave's ability to sew? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How could sewing help free a slave like Elizabeth Keckley? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was a story quilt? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why was a story quilt important to a slave family? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_