

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD:

Path to Freedom

Name _____

Date _____

The Underground Railroad was a secret organization of routes and safe places used to help enslaved people escape to freedom. Many enslaved African Americans left the southern states and went to the free northern states and Canada, where slavery was illegal. Along the way, people who were against slavery, called abolitionists, would hide the people escaping slavery and help them to the next stop along the route.

Started in the early 1800s, the Underground Railroad ended when slavery was abolished near the end of the Civil War. At least 30,000 people used the secret system to make their way to freedom.



Ride for Liberty – The Fugitive Slaves, by Eastman Johnson

Railroad Terms

The Underground Railroad used railroad terms as a secret code. Read some of the terms and their meanings below.

Agent: a person who helped the people escaping from slavery find the railroad

Station: a hiding place, often a home or church

Conductor: a person who guided the people escaping from slavery to the next stop

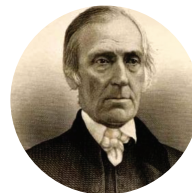
Station Master: a person who used their home to hide people escaping from slavery.



Harriet Tubman, one of the most famous conductors, was known as the “Moses” of the Underground Railroad.



William Still was called the Father of the Underground Railroad.



Levi Coffin and his wife, Catherine, helped two thousand enslaved people on their road to freedom. Their home in Indiana was known as the “Grand Central Station of the Underground Railroad.”

Questions Answer Key

1. Who was known as the Father of the Underground Railroad?

William Still

2. In Underground Railroad terms, what was a station?

A hiding place

3. What was an abolitionist?

A person who was against slavery

Secret Code

Use the secret code to find a phrase about the Underground Railroad. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

N	O	R	T	H	T	O	F	R	E	E	D	O	M
14	15	18	20	8	20	15	6	18	5	5	4	15	13

1 = A	5 = E	9 = I	13 = M	17 = Q	21 = U	25 = Y
2 = B	6 = F	10 = J	14 = N	18 = R	22 = V	26 = Z
3 = C	7 = G	11 = K	15 = O	19 = S	23 = W	
4 = D	8 = H	12 = L	16 = P	20 = T	24 = X	