

Escape Route

Your teacher will assign you to groups. In your group, plan an escape route to a specific spot in your school or school yard. Make sure to use symbols similar to those used historically in the Underground Railroad (i.e. small statue with hat or scarf, something specific in a window). You may need to review the sheet “Secrets of the Underground Railroad”. The ultimate goal is to reach safety in the specified location.

Each person in your group will assume a role. You will need to have conductors, safe houses, stationmasters, slave catchers and escaped slaves as well. You will need to create at least 2 danger spots along your route. Devise alternate routes without being detected. You must have signs and signals that if followed correctly, will allow escapees to pass safely without being detected.

Assign 2 people from your group to be escaped slaves and secretly test your route. You may want to send them to some of your places of danger where your slave catchers will be during the real escape exercise, and place your slave catchers in places that will be safe during the real escape, just to throw off other groups who may be watching your practice runs. Remember, to be successful, Underground Railroad operators had to be secretive and deceptive. Try to work out all the bugs in your escape route.

During your second session, your slave catchers will be sent to be slave catchers for another group, and new slave catchers will come to work in the spots you have designated as danger spots on your route. Your escapees will go to another group and new escapees who don't know your route will try to make an escape using the clues you have created for them. They will find your safe houses and conductors using this information.

After completing this exercise, complete the Individual Evaluation. Then get back together with your group for a group discussion of what went well, and what the problem areas were. Complete the Group Evaluation, and be prepared to discuss your findings with your class.





Escape Route

Complete the evaluations of your participation in the Escape Route Activity.

Individual Evaluation

	Never	Sometimes	Mostly	Always
1. I listened to people in my group.				
2. I helped other people.				
3. I contributed ideas and information.				
4. I helped to clarify and summarize ideas and information.				
5. I encouraged others				
6. I participated in making decisions				
7. I expressed appreciation to others.				
8. I helped us to reflect on what we learned.				

Group Evaluation

	Never	Sometimes	Mostly	Always
1. We listened to each other.				
2. We checked our understanding of the task..				
3. We shared ideas and information.				
4. We encouraged and helped each other.				
5. We stayed on the task and used our time well.				