

“Escape to Freedom”

1.) Curricular Area/Topic: The Underground Railroad; Third Grade

2.) Date/Timeframe for Lesson: November 18, 2009; One forty-five minute lesson

3.) Rationale: The Underground Railroad and slavery is a great topic for third graders to learn about because it was an important part of history and it is part of the outcome that makes the United States what it is today. This was a very hard time in life for the African American people and it is important for the students to know what exactly happened during this time and then see how far our country has come on the topic of slavery. This lesson is appropriate for third graders because it does not go too far into the Underground Railroad and slavery and all the horrible things that happened to slaves for disobeying their masters, but it gives them an insight of how things were back in that time period and allows them to reflect upon it. The reason for teaching this lesson is to again give the students an insight of how the world was back then and how far the Nation has come today. I believe this also teaches that if a person wants something strong enough, they are willing to fight for it until that something happens or comes.

4.) ILS (IL Learning Standards):

- ✓ **State Goal 16:** Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.
- ✓ **D:** Understand Illinois, United States and world social history.
 - **Standard 16.D.3 (W):** Identify the origins and analyze consequences of events that have shaped world social history including famines, migrations, plagues, slave trading.
 - **Standard 16.D.4a (US):** Describe the immediate and long-range social impacts of slavery.
- ✓ **State Goal 18:** Understand social systems, with an emphasis on the United States.

- ✓ **A:** Compare characteristics of culture as reflected in language, literature, the arts, traditions and institutions.
 - **Standard 18.A.1:** Identify folklore from different cultures which became part of the heritage of the United States.
 - **Standard 18.A.2:** Explain ways in which language, stories, folk tales, music, media and artistic creations serve as expressions of culture.
- ✓ **Social Science Performance Descriptors:**
 - **Standard 14B Stage A:** Describe a person who provides positive leadership for others.
 - **Standard 14D Stage F:** Analyze actions taken by governments to improve the lives of people.

5.) Objectives:

- 1) After this lesson students will understand what the Underground Railroad is.
- 2) When this lesson is complete, students will be able to remember some definitions that deal with the Underground Railroad and Slavery.
- 3) After the completion of this lesson students will understand why slavery got started.

6.) Materials/Resources/Technology: The materials that will be needed for this lesson are the PowerPoint presentation on the Underground Railroad and Slavery. As well as the worksheet the students will need to fill out after the PowerPoint presentation, and each student will need their own individual copy. And, a copy of the Word Search will be needed for each individual student to work on, on their own.

No Author. (1995). *Judgment Day: Africans of America*. [Online] Available <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2944.html>

No Author. (2002). *Aboard the Underground Railroad: A National Registry Travel Itinerary*. [Online] Available <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/underground/>

7.) Management/Organizing for Instruction: There will need to be some management and organization for this lesson, but not too much. The PowerPoint presentation will need to be ready before class so there is no time wasted and to make sure everything is working properly. The teacher will also need to have ready a copy for each student of the worksheet that will be filled out at the end of the presentation and the word search that the students can work on individually.

8.) Lesson Delivery:

8.1) Introduce the Lesson: I will introduce this lesson with a PowerPoint presentation on the Underground Railroad and slavery. In this presentation, it talks about what the Underground Railroad is, how slavery got started and mentions several new vocabulary words that the students will be introduced to. This will help the students become familiar with both of these topics.

8.2) Clarify the Purpose and Objectives of the Lesson: The purpose for teaching this lesson is to make the student more aware and have a better understanding of the Underground Railroad and slavery. These are very important events that happened in history and the students need to learn as much as they can about them.

8.3) Provide Instruction:

A.) For the first part of this lesson the students will be listening to me as well as participating in a PowerPoint presentation. With this the students will be introduced to the Underground Railroad as well as slavery and will learn about each one in detail.

B.) The second part of this lesson will be the review of the PowerPoint at the end of the presentation. Here I have come up with several questions to ask the students from the PowerPoint to make sure if they were paying attention and are ready for the third part of the lesson. If I feel they are not ready for the assessment part, I will do a little more reviewing with the class.

C.) For the third part of the lesson, my students will complete a worksheet that deals with what the PowerPoint taught. There are five different questions, four coming directly out of the PowerPoint and one with an opinion from the students. The students will do this individually right after the PowerPoint so the information is still fresh in their minds. The students are also more than welcome to use the resources around them to help them with this worksheet like their social studies book.

D.) For the final step of this lesson the students will be doing a word search on their own. All of the words hidden in the word search deal with either the Underground Railroad or slavery. This is a great way to help the students again remember the words we just learned about.

8.4) Closure: To end this lesson, I have made a word search for the students to find words that deal with the Underground Railroad and slavery. All of the words that are in the word search deal with either the Underground Railroad or slavery to help them understand and remember some vocabulary better.

9.) Assessment: The assessment I will be grading for this lesson is a worksheet that deals with the PowerPoint presentation. Here I will ask the students several questions about the

PowerPoint like definitions as well as others. Here the students are required to fill out this worksheet in class and have it done but the time class time ends. This worksheet will also be given right after the PowerPoint presentation so the students should know most answers. But, if the students need more help they are more than welcome to use their book as a resource. This assessment will be worth ten points, two points for each question.

10.) Accommodating Individual Learner:

A.) For the gifted students in my classroom, and who finish early I will have them go around to the other students in the classroom, who may need help with their worksheet. This way the students who finish early, are not just doing more work, but helping their other classmates. And for the students who are struggling, it gives them a chance to be taught by their peers and to maybe see things in a different point of view than what the teacher taught.

B.) For the special needs students in my classroom, I will have them do the exact same worksheet as the other students in my class, but will only let them complete two multiple choice questions and their opinion question at the very end. This way it will be less stressful for the students and make them less likely to give up sooner.

11.) Extending the Lesson: To extend this lesson, I would have the students tell me their opinion in a two-paragraph essay about their views on slavery. These can be any thoughts they have about slavery or the Underground Railroad. After their thoughts have been put on to paper, they will be transformed into words in an oral presentation made by the students.

12.) Reflection on Lesson: One area of best practice that this lesson plan displays is an increase of knowledge and awareness of cultural issues. This lesson plan really goes into depth about the Underground Railroad and Slavery and the type of culture that the African Americans had during that time. The students learn about the culture and about how that culture changed because of the Underground Railroad. I will also be integrating language arts with this lesson. The students will be reading a book called “Henry’s Freedom Box,” of which this lesson is entirely formed around, and will be doing a writing assignment that deals with the book as well.

No author. *Best Practice in Social Studies Education*. [Online] Available
<http://sommermitchell.tripod.com/>, Nov. 14, 2009.

No author. Social Studies - Best Practice. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
[Online] Available <http://dpi.wi.gov/cal/ss-bestpract.html>, Feb. 25, 2008.

Worksheet Assessment

- 1.) Who were the people who helped slaves?
 - A.) Helpers
 - B.) Abolitionists
 - C.) Friends
 - D.) Neighbors
- 2.) What law made it illegal to help slaves to freedom?
 - A.) The Fugitive Slave Act
 - B.) The Save the Slaves Act
- 3.) List two jobs that slaves had.
 - A.)
 - B.)
- 4.) Why were slaves needed?
 - A.) To read books
 - B.) To sing
 - C.) Cheap labor
 - D.) Make inventions
- 5.) Tell me what you think about slavery.

Worksheet Assessment Rubric

1.) B **2 points**

2.) A **2 points**

3.) These are all possible answers... **2 points**

- Cleaning
- Cooking
- Training animals
- Working on the Plantations

4.) C **2 points**

5.) The points for this question will be awarded **2 points**
if the student attempts the answer.

Total Points _____ / 10