

**I. Title:** “Slavery vs. Freedom”

**II. Grade Level:** Third Grade

**III. Name:** Laura Negley

**IV. Course Names/Sections:** Social Studies Education Section 71 and Reading Education Section 51

**V. Unit Goals:** At the end of this unit, students should be able to:

- 1.) Understand how dangerous it was for slaves to try to escape to the North or Canada.
- 2.) Appreciate the struggles that African Americans faced during this time period.
- 3.) Become aware of the symbols and signs along the Underground Railroad that fugitives used to escape to the North or Canada.
- 4.) Recognize an important individual who worked on the Underground Railroad.
- 5.) Distinguish between key terms such as Stations, Bounty Hunters, Plantations, The Drinking Gourd, etc.
- 6.) Summarize, in their own words, the story told of *Henry’s Freedom Box*.
- 7.) Grasp the significance of the impact that Harriet Tubman had on the Underground Railroad.

**VI. Introduction:** *Henry’s Freedom Box* was written by Ellen Levine and illustrated by Kadir Nelson. This story is a non-fiction book about the Underground Railroad and a boy named Henry Brown. Henry was the first African American slave who escaped from slavery by mailing himself in a box from the South all the way to the North to the state of Pennsylvania. Because of this he has developed the nickname Henry “Box” Brown.

The content I will be focusing on is the Underground Railroad and Slavery prior to the Civil War. The Underground Railroad plays an important part in American History dealing with African American slaves. But the Underground Railroad was not a railroad, it was a network of people helping slaves escape from the South and flee to the North or Canada, where slaves could be considered free. The journey however, was not an easy task. This had to be done on foot and during the night hours so no one could see or find them. Many slaves however were afraid to leave their owners, but one very courageous woman named Harriet Tubman was not. Harriet escaped from slavery all on her own and returned nineteen times to help other slaves, including her family, giving her the nickname of “Moses.”

The strategies I plan to use for these lessons are two PowerPoint presentations, one for each lesson, a word search, and a craft project. The first presentation will be an introduction to the Underground Railroad and Slavery followed by the word search. The second presentation will be over secret codes, followed by the students making a craft project. For the literacy component, we will read aloud *Henry’s Freedom Box* as well as write a five-paragraph essay on the Underground Railroad and Slavery.

**VII. Table of Contents:**

- 1.) “Escape to Freedom”
- 2.) “Slavery Through A Child’s Eyes”
- 3.) “Secrecy Among the United”
- 4.) “Freedom Expressed”