


History

The Underground Railroad

Have you heard or read about the Underground Railway? Do you know what a

railroad looks like? If you don't, here is a picture . You might know this as a train track. The LRT here in Edmonton moves on a train track or a railroad. Today the train tracks on the Edmonton LRT lead to Clairview and to Century Park. There are many stops along the track and people get off at different stops.

In this module you are going to learn about the Underground Railroad. It played a very important part in the history of the United States and Canada. Canada was the destination that many people hoped to get to. Many books have been written about the Underground Railroad and the people who worked on the Underground Railroad.

KWL CHART

Let's start by completing the KWL chart below. Think about what you know about the Underground Railroad or what you think you know. It's ok if you have never heard of it and you do not know anything. Then think about what you want to know about the Underground Railroad.

K What I Know about the Underground Railroad	W What I want to know about the Underground Railroad	L What I learned about the Underground Railroad

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READING ACTIVITY

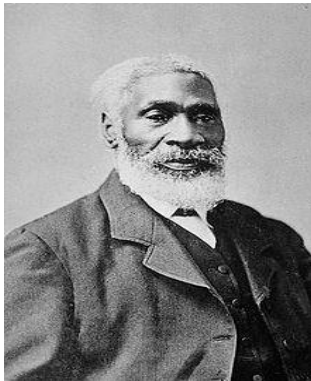
Many people have written stories about the Underground Railroad. It was not really a railroad with train tracks going underground. It was a series of places and people who helped enslaved Africans escape from slavery in the United States in the 1800s.

The Underground Railroad was a group of people who worked together to help enslaved Africans run away from slave states to free states and to Canada. People like *Harriet Tubman*, *Frederick Douglass*, and *Levi Coffin* played a very important role in helping escape from slavery in the Southern United States to come to the Northern States where they could be free. Those who were running away from slavery had to make long and dangerous journeys to get to freedom. They had to be careful not to get caught trying to escape. They had to rely on help from other people along the way especially in places they did not know. The Underground Railroad did not stop in the Northern states of the USA. It went even further north to Canada.

The people who helped enslaved Africans escape to freedom using the Underground Railway used their own special words to help. For example, people who guided the runaway enslaved Africans from one place to the next were called **conductors**. The places where runaway slaves could find food or could sleep during the night were called **stations** or **safe houses**. The people who hid enslaved Africans in their homes, in churches, or in their barns were called **station masters**.

Many of those running away wanted to get to Canada.

And in Canada...

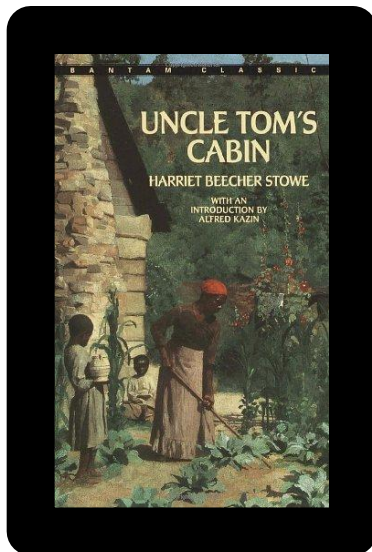


Reverend Josiah Henson played a very important role in the Underground Railroad in Canada.

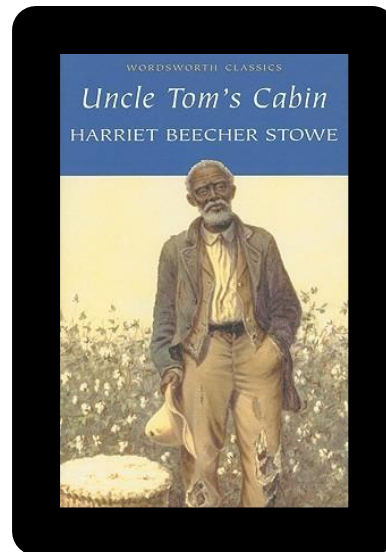
Josiah Henson was born in the United States and he worked there as an enslaved African for 41 years. He managed to escape to Canada in 1830 using the Underground Railroad. When he got to Canada he built a settlement and a school for other slaves who had run away and come to Canada. Reverend Josiah Henson wrote an autobiography, a book about his life, in 1849. Another famous book that

uses some information about his life called "Uncle Tom's Cabin", was written by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Today you can visit Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden, Ontario.

Here are some book cover images of "Uncle Tom's Cabin". See if you can find these in your local library.



<http://ecx.images-amazon.com/images/I/51iF2FQ6KYL.jpg>



<http://d.gr-assets.com/books/1348092796/46787.jpg>

LISTENING ACTIVITY

Information from the videos and audios will also be included in the quiz.

Watch a video about the Underground Railway. The video is of Henry Cole reading his picture book called "Unspoken: A story from the Underground Railroad". On

the internet you can search for "Henry Cole and Unspoken" to find the video. Or you can follow this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voL_dToHjUU

Question:

What happened in this story?

What have you learned about the Underground Railroad? Complete the last column of the KWL chart on page 2.

REFERENCES

The references are for additional information only. You do not have to study them for the quiz.

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harriet_Tubman
2. <http://www.mapsofworld.com/metro-maps/underground-railroad-facts.html>
3. <http://katishistoricalwebpage.weebly.com/john-fairfield.html>
4. <http://bioquide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=F000006>
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Douglass

6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josiah_Henson
7. <http://www.biography.com/people/harriet-tubman-9511430>
8. <http://www.biography.com/people/frederick-douglass-9278324>