

7th Grade Lesson Plan

Underground Railroad in Buffalo, NY

Essential Question:

1. What impact did Buffalo, NY have on the underground railroad?

Objectives: SWBAT

- Examine way in which enslaved Africans organized and resisted their conditions.
- Identify the role Harriet Tubman played in the abolitionist movement and her connection to Buffalo, NY.
- Investigate Buffalo's role in the abolition movement including the locations of Underground Railroad stations.

Standards:

7.7b - Enslaved African Americans resisted slavery in various ways in the 19th century. The abolitionist movement also worked to raise awareness of and generate resistance to the institution of slavery.

- Students will examine ways in which enslaved Africans organized and resisted their conditions.
- Students will explore the efforts of William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Tubman to abolish slavery.
- Students will investigate New York State and its role in the abolition movement, including the locations of Underground Railroad stations.

Materials:

- Reward poster for runaway slave 1847
 - http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/tubman/aa_tubman_rail_1_e.html
- Underground Railroad Monopoly board
- Underground Railroad presentation & student guided notes
- QR codes (video links) & question sheets
 - Rich Newberg Reports: Michigan Street Baptist Church
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6189369/video/351175157>
 - Rich Newberg Reports: Harriet Tubman
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6189369/video/351175719>
 - Rich Newberg Reports: Buffalo's African American Community mid-1800s
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6189369/video/351247653>
 - Rich Newberg Reports: Broderick Park URR Memorial Site Plans
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6189369/video/353463489>

Procedure:

- Anticipatory Set: Display the reward poster of runaway slave from 1847 on smart board (http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/tubman/aa_tubman_rail_1_e.html). Have students analyze the image. Why did slaves feel the need to risk everything in order to escape to freedom?
- After students analyze the image and answer the accompanying question, discuss as a class. Ask students what type of source the image is. Discuss the language used to describe the runaways.
- Display Underground Railroad presentation and pass out student guided notes. Students will complete the fill in the blank style notes as they follow along with the presentation.
- Then, break the students up into groups. Working with their group members' students walk around the room to find QR codes to video links and questions.
- Students will scan the QR codes with their devices in order to watch the videos.
- Students will watch a total of 4 Rich Newberg Reports, and answer a series of compelling questions.
- To incorporate history into physical education classes you may use the fitness monopoly board. In this game, students will roll dice and perform the activities at the square they land on. At the same time learning how about the history of Buffalo and its connections on the Underground Railroad.
- Exit Ticket: How did Buffalo play a role in the Underground Railroad? Explain.