

ALL-IN-ONE!

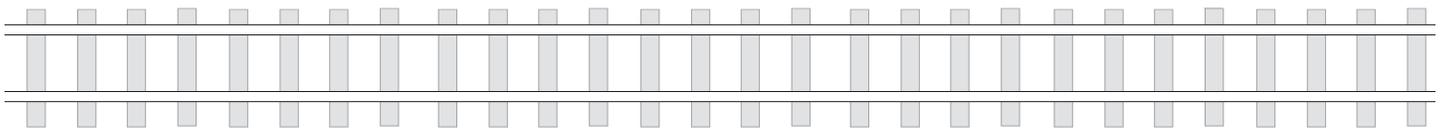
Underground Railroad Middle School Teacher Instructions and Reproducible Activity

This activity includes three reproducible “quilt squares.” On a quilt square, a student will write a vocabulary word or the name of a significant person, and then the word definition or the person’s significance. Students will also color their squares. The squares may be hung on the bulletin board to form a vocabulary quilt.

Supplies needed: vocabulary list, quilt square worksheets, pens, black markers (for writing), crayons, and/or colored pencils.

Directions:

1. First, provide students with the attached vocabulary list and definitions.
2. Next, give each student at least one quilt square. (You may give each student more than one square, depending upon how much room you have for the quilt and how big you wish for it to be.)
3. After handing out the squares, explain to the students that they are to write one vocabulary word or the name of an important person from the Underground Railroad unit on each square. Next, they are to write the definition of the word or describe the person’s importance. (Have the students write their names on the back of the squares.)
4. Tell the students that they can color their squares once they have written their information. Urge them to use colorful crayons or colored pencils to color the squares brightly.



Underground Railroad Vocabulary Words (Middle School)

Freedman—a former slave whose freedom was purchased, given by an owner, or granted by law

Fugitive Slave Act—(1850) passed as a provision to the Compromise of 1850. It allowed slave owners or slave catchers to enter non-slaveholding states to capture escaped slaves.

Slave—person bound by servitude or owned by another

Abolition—the act of outlawing slavery

Abolitionist—person who was opposed to slavery and fought to end it

Emancipation—to be set free from slavery

Harriet Tubman—escaped slave and one of the most famous conductors on the Underground Railroad; helped lead over 300 slaves to freedom

William Still—an escaped slave who is often referred to as “The Father of the Underground Railroad”

Frederick Douglass— escaped slave and abolitionist who founded an anti-slavery newspaper, *The North Star*, in 1847

Thomas Garrett—a Quaker who helped over 2700 slaves escape to freedom

John Brown—abolitionist who led the raid at Harper’s Ferry

Sojourner Truth—freed slave who spoke out against slavery

Fugitive/Escapee/Runaway—a person who is running away

Agents—people who assisted runaway slaves in finding their way along the Underground Railroad

Dred Scott Decision—a ruling made by the Supreme Court in 1857 which stated that people of African descent—whether they were free or slaves—could not be American citizens

Antebellum—pre-Civil War era

Abraham Lincoln—16th President of the United States; issued the Emancipation Proclamation; he was the U.S. President during the Civil War

Levi Coffin—Quaker who was anti-slavery; his home was a station on the Underground Railroad; he helped more than 2,000 slaves escape

Emancipation Proclamation—issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, freeing the slaves in all Confederate States

Civil War—a war between the Union (northern states) and the Confederacy (southern states), fought from 1861-1865

Auction—where slaves were bought and sold

13th Amendment—an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, passed in 1865, which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude in the United States and its territories

Quakers—a religious community founded in England in the 17th Century; also known as the Society of Friends; many in this group felt it was their duty to help slaves find freedom

Slaveholders—those who owned slaves

Stations—hiding places on the Underground Railroad; another name for safe houses

Rebellion—a fight or struggle against any kind of authority or control

Masters—those who owned slaves; another term for slaveholder

Safe house—places on the Underground Railroad where escaped slaves could hide and have food and shelter

Plantation—a large farm on which crops, such as cotton, were grown; slave labor was the primary labor force on plantations

Passengers/Cargo—code words for escaped slaves traveling on the Underground Railroad

Spirituals—religious songs sung by the slaves to lift their spirits and relay coded information

“A friend of a friend”—a secret password used on the Underground Railroad

Stationmasters—people who allowed runaway slaves to hide in their homes

Quilt—blanket made from squares of fabric that are sewn together; sometimes used to relay messages to runaways

Lanterns—used to indicate that a location was a safe house for fugitive slaves

Canada—after the Fugitive Slave Act was passed, thousands of slaves escaped to Canada where this law was ineffective

Patrollers—men who searched for escaped slaves

Load of potatoes/parcels/bundle of wood—code words for the transporting of escaping slaves on the Underground Railroad

Overseer—person who supervised the work of slaves on a plantation

Cotton gin—1793 invention that revolutionized cotton harvesting and created a tremendous demand for slave labor

Drinking gourd—code name for the Big Dipper, the group of stars runaway slaves used to locate the North Star

North Star—used by slaves to find their way north and to freedom

Eli Whitney—invented the cotton gin

Cotton—a major cash-producing crop in the southern United States in the 18th and 19th centuries

Cash crop—a crop grown by a farmer to sell for a profit rather than for his personal use

