The Underground Railroad...Escape from Slavery!
Scholastic Web Quest

You are going to take a journey through an Internet Web Quest to better understand the experiences of African Americans who chose to escape slavery using the Underground Railroad. After each section of the journey, you will answer questions, so be sure to pay close attention to the slaves’ experiences!

Go to the following website:

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/underground_railroad/plantation.htm

**On the Plantation:**

In the upper left-hand corner, there is a picture of a set of headphones. Click on the headphones and listen to Walter’s experiences. *If you experienced the same life Walter experienced, what do you feel would have been the most difficult part for you?*

Click on the plus (+) signs on the page. Again, you may click on the headphones to have the paragraph read to you. *Think about the information in one of the paragraphs. What is your reaction to it? (In other words, reflect in detail how you feel about what you read.)*

You may click on the envelope/pencil to read about the experiences of another slave.

**Escape!**

Click on *Escape! (2)* at the top of the page.
Again, click the picture of the headphones in the upper left-hand side of the page. Listen to Walter’s experiences of escaping the plantation. **Again, if you had to experience escaping as Walter describes it, what would be the worst part for you and why?**

Click on the plus (+) signs on the page. Again, you may click on the headphones to have the paragraph read to you. **Think about the information in the paragraphs. What is something you learned from reading those paragraphs?**

You may click on the envelope/pencil to read about how people would secretly communicate in writing to help slaves escape on the Underground Railroad.

**Reaching Safety!**

Click on *Reaching Safety (3)* at the top of the page.

Again, click the picture of the headphones in the upper left-hand side of the page. Listen to more of Walter’s experiences escaping slavery. **If you were a person who was helping a slave, what are some things you would be worried about?**

Click on the picture of the video recorder. Listen to the information about *abolitionists*. **What is an abolitionist?**

K. Amburgey, 2011
What are the names of 5 well-known abolitionists?

Click on the plus (+) signs on the page and read about other ways slaves were helped to escape to freedom.

**Reading Freedom!**

Click on *Reaching Freedom (4)* at the top of the page.

Again, click the picture of the headphones in the upper left-hand side of the page. Listen to Walter’s experience of finding freedom. **What do you think Walter will do once he reaches Canada?**

Again, click on the picture of the video recorder. Listen to how African Americans lived in Canada and the US. **What is one way slaves were treated differently in Canada than in the US?**

What is one way slaves were treated the same in both countries?

What ended slavery in the US?

If you, like Walter, had escaped to freedom in Canada, would you stay in Canada or go back to the US once slavery was abolished in the US? **Why?**
The Underground Railroad...Escape from Slavery!
Scholastic Web Quest – ANSWER KEY

You are going to take a journey through an Internet Web Quest to better understand the experiences of African Americans who chose to escape slavery using the Underground Railroad. After each section of the journey, you will answer questions, so be sure to pay close attention to the slaves’ experiences!

Go to the following website:

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/underground_railroad/plantation.htm

On the Plantation:

In the upper left-hand corner, there is a picture of a set of headphones. Click on the headphones and listen to Walter’s experiences. If you experienced the same life Walter experienced, what do you feel would have been the most difficult part for you?

Student opinion (work, being taken from family, etc.)

Click on the plus (+) signs on the page. Again, you may click on the headphones to have the paragraph read to you. Think about the information in one of the paragraphs. What is your reaction to it? (In other words, reflect in detail how you feel about what you read.)

Reflect on Overseers, amount/type of work, or slave cabins

You may click on the envelope/pencil to read about the experiences of another slave.

Escape!

Click on Escape! (2) at the top of the page.
Again, click the picture of the headphones in the upper left-hand side of the page. Listen to Walter’s experiences of escaping the plantation. **Again, if you had to experience escaping as Walter describes it, what would be the worst part for you and why?**

**Student Opinion** – (fear of dogs barking, lack of food, finding your way, etc.)

Click on the plus (+) signs on the page. Again, you may click on the headphones to have the paragraph read to you. **Think about the information in the paragraphs. What is something you learned from reading those paragraphs?**

Reflect on traps/snares, moss growing on trees, using North Star/Big Dipper as guide

You may click on the envelope/pencil to read about how people would secretly communicate in writing to help slaves escape on the Underground Railroad.

**Reaching Safety!**

Click on **Reaching Safety (3)** at the top of the page.

Again, click the picture of the headphones in the upper left-hand side of the page. Listen to more of Walter’s experiences escaping slavery. **If you were a person who was helping a slave, what are some things you would be worried about?**

**Student Opinion** – (getting caught and punished, dangers of slaves, etc.)

Click on the picture of the video recorder. Listen to the information about **abolitionists**. **What is an abolitionist?** People who worked to end slavery

K. Amburgey, 2011
What are the names of 5 well-known abolitionists? William Still, Thomas Garrett, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas

Click on the plus (+) signs on the page and read about other ways slaves were helped to escape to freedom.

Reading Freedom!

Click on Reaching Freedom (4) at the top of the page.

Again, click the picture of the headphones in the upper left-hand side of the page. Listen to Walter’s experience of finding freedom. What do you think Walter will do once he reaches Canada?

Student Opinion – (Try to find a job, seek help of other black people, etc.)

Again, click on the picture of the video recorder. Listen to how African Americans lived in Canada and the US. What is one way slaves were treated differently in Canada than in the US? Slave catchers were not allowed to catch and return slaves in Canada, but they could in the US. Blacks were equal under the law in Canada (abolished in 1833) but not in the US.

What is one way slaves were treated the same in both countries? Discrimination (Blacks were not encouraged to go to/share the same places as whites)

What ended slavery in the US? The Civil War – the North won, in 1865 slavery was abolished in the US.

If you, like Walter, had escaped to freedom in Canada, would you stay in Canada or go back to the US once slavery was abolished in the US? Why?

Student Opinion

K. Amburgey, 2011