WRITE ABOUT IT
ON THE PLANTATION: LIFE AS SLAVE

Have you explored all the resources in "On the Plantation: Life as a Slave"? To start, listen to the story of the runaway slave, then click around the scene to learn more about life on a Southern plantation. In the audio slideshow, you'll discover the history and hardships of slavery in America. Then read "Growing Up in Slavery" to meet Fannie Moore, who was born an enslaved African American in South Carolina. After you've explored these resources, answer these questions.

1. What did it mean to be a slave? What were some of the basic rights that slaves did not have?

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2. Why did people own slaves in the United States in the 1800s?

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3. When did slavery begin in the United States? Where did the first slaves come from?

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4. Describe the life of a slave on a Southern plantation. Where did slaves live? What kinds of work did they do? How were they punished?

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5. What do you think were some of the hardest things about being a slave?

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WRITE ABOUT IT
REACHING SAFETY: HEROES FOR THE CAUSE

Have you explored all the resources in “Reaching Safety: Heroes for the Cause”? To start, listen to the story of the runaway slave, then click around the scene to learn how some abolitionists helped fugitives reach freedom. In the audio slideshow, you’ll learn more about abolitionists and the movement to end slavery. Then try the “Harriet Tubman Web Quest,” to learn about the life of this brave woman who risked her life to guide hundreds of enslaved African Americans to freedom. After you’ve explored these resources, answer these questions.

1. Were runaway slaves free once they reached the Northern states? Explain your answer.

2. Who were the abolitionists? How did they spread their message?

3. What are some ways that abolitionists helped runaways on the Underground Railroad?

4. Did all abolitionists support the Underground Railroad? Why or why not?

5. Why was it so dangerous for people to help runaway slaves?

6. Who was Harriet Tubman? How do you think she and the Northern abolitionists helped each other’s cause?
WRITE ABOUT IT

ESCAPE! THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Have you explored all the resources in “Escape! The Underground Railroad”? To start, listen to the story of the runaway slave, then click around the scene to learn more about how slaves made their escapes and found their way. In the audio slideshow, you’ll find out how the Underground Railroad helped slaves reach freedom. Then try to “Write a Secret Letter” and complete a coded letter using some of the secret language of the Underground Railroad. After you’ve explored these resources, answer these questions.

1. Why did some enslaved African Americans try to escape from their owners? Why was this such a dangerous act?

2. How did most slaves travel when they escaped? How did they find their way?

3. What were some of the worst dangers and challenges that runaway slaves faced?

4. How did runaways try to avoid getting caught? What happened if they were caught?

5. What was the Underground Railroad? Who were the “passengers” and the “conductors”?

6. Why did the Underground Railroad have to be so secretive? What are some ways that people on the Underground Railroad kept their work – and runaway slaves – hidden?
WRITE ABOUT IT
ALMOST FREE: LIFE IN THE NORTH

Have you explored all the resources in “Almost Free: Life in the North”? To start, listen to the story of the runaway slave, then click around the scene to discover what life was like for fugitives in the North. In the audio slideshow, you’ll learn more about where fugitives settled in the North, and some of the challenges they faced. Then see “Compare Two Worlds: The North vs. South,” for interactive maps that identify important differences between the North and South before the Civil War. After you’ve explored these resources, answer these questions.

1. What are some of the different places that slaves settled in the North? Why did many runaways go to Canada?
   
2. What were some of the challenges the newcomers faced as they started their new lives?
   
3. What were three major differences between the North and the South before the Civil War?
   
4. What was the Emancipation Proclamation? What impact did it have?
   
5. Why did so many African Americans fight in the Civil War on the side of the Union?
   
6. What was one important outcome of the Civil War?