

Post Activities For Your Classroom.

after visiting the Lathrop House

Thank you for bringing your students to visit the Lathrop House and participating in Heritage Sylvania's Underground Railroad Program! Today your students learned about Ohio and Sylvania's role in the Underground Railroad. Below are ideas for activities and discussion to reinforce what your students have learned here today.

Abolitionists

Your students talked about what it means to be an abolitionist and explored the dangers of doing so.

Activity: *Have students research different abolitionists. Answering: Who they were, what they did, and where they lived. Then have your students compare and contrast their research to their classmates. Discuss how not all abolitionists did the same thing or were in the same place.*



Traveling Through Ohio

During their time here students learned about Ohio and the journey people would take to obtain freedom.

Activity : *Have students line up on side of the room, have them walk from one side to the other. Time them. Have them do it again but this time they can only travel when the lights are OFF. While they travel turn the lights on and off to slow their journey. Time them again.*

(Do not have students travel in complete darkness).

Discuss how long a journey would take when you can only move at certain times. And why it might be necessary to seek help from the Underground Railroad.

Language

Historians often adjust the words they use to describe groups of people and institutions.

Brainstorm and Discuss: *Why might historians refer to people as freedom seekers instead of fugitives? Think about how different words may make someone feel.*

The Natural World

Traveling on the Underground Railroad was no easy task. There were dangers and unknowns around every corner.

Brainstorm and Discuss: *What things are essential to surviving in the natural world?*

Ex. Water, Food, Shelter, etc.

Where would you get these things?

What other items would be helpful for survival and where might you get these?

The North Star

Traveling through the night was for more than secrecy. The North Star, aka Polaris, was a useful star to know. It helped guide people North. By following Polaris, the more overhead it got the more North you were.

Activity: *Using an online star map, such as “Stellarium Web”, find the North Star and it’s connected constellation, Ursa Minor.*

Challenge students to identify Polaris on a clear night while at home.