Document A

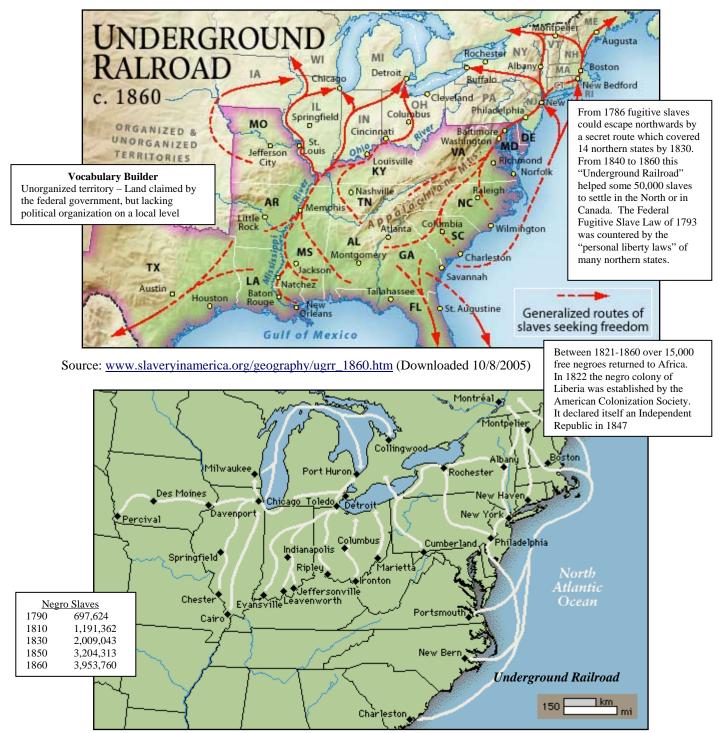
Excerpt from Fugitive Slave Law

7. And be it further enacted, That any person who shall knowingly and willingly obstruct [stop], hinder [interfere], or prevent such claimant [a person making a claim], his agent [representative] or attorney, or any person or persons lawfully assisting him, her, or them, from arresting such a fugitive from service or labor, . . . or shall rescue, or attempt to rescue, such fugitive from service or labor, from the custody of such claimant, . . . when so arrested, . . . or shall aid, abet [encourage], or assist such person so owing service or labor . . . to escape . . . or shall harbor [hide] or conceal such fugitive, so as to prevent the discovery and arrest of such person, after notice or knowledge of the fact that such person was a fugitive from service or labor as aforesaid, shall, for either of said offences [violations], be subject [given] to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding six months, . . .

Source: Fugitive Slave Law, 1850

Document B

Maps of the Underground Railroad



Source: www.encarta.mnsn.com/media_461518192/Underground_Railroad.html (Downloaded 10/8/2005)

Source: Martin, Gilbert. American History Atlas. New York: Marboro Books, 1969.

Document C

Fugitive Slave Ad Image One

\$150 REWARD

Ranaway from the subscriber, on the night of Monday the 11th July, a negro man named

TOM,

about 30 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high; of dark color; heavy in the chest; several of his jaw teeth out; and upon his body are several old marks of the whip, one of them straight down the back. He took with him a quantity of clothing, and several hats.

A reward of \$150 will be paid for his apprehension and security, if taken out of the State of Kentucky; \$100 if taken in any county bordering on the Ohio river; \$50 if taken in any of the interior counties except Fayette; or \$20 if taken in the latter county.

July 12-84-tf

B. L. BOSTON

Vocabulary Builder

Subscriber – Owner; person who placed the ad

Negro – A person of African descent

Apprehension – Capture

Security – In custody

Interior – Inside

Latter – Last stated (in this case, Fayette County)

Source: http://www.xroads.virgini.edu (Downloaded 10/13/05)

Document C

Fugitive Slave Ad Image Two

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL, You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, Shun them in every possible manner, as so many HOUNDS on the track of the most unfortunate of your race. Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open. APRIL 24, 1851.

Vocabulary Builder

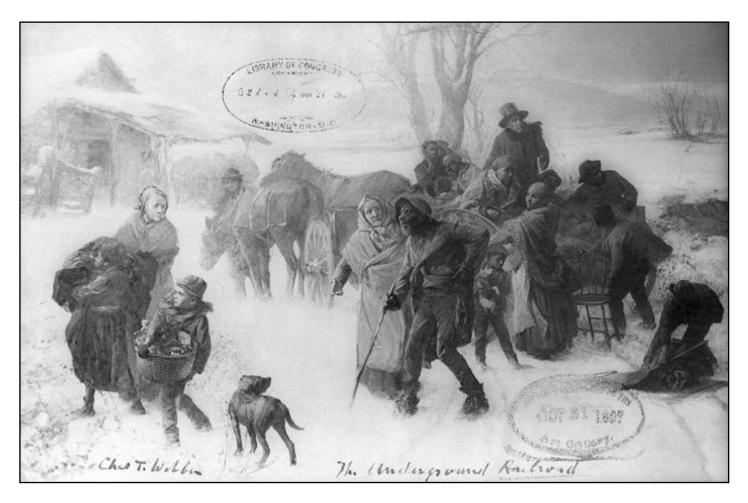
Welfare – Safety Shun – Avoid Hounds – Hunting dogs

Source: http://www.xroads.virgini.edu (Downloaded 10/13/05)

Document D

Reproduction of a Painting

The Underground Railroad



Source: Webber, Charles T. (Reproduction of a painting in the Cincinnati Art Museum). "The Underground Railroad." c. 1893. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

Document E

Testimony – An Account of the Underground Railroad

Levi Coffin, a Quaker, became famous for helping many former slaves escape to freedom in the North. Coffin is often referred to as the President of the Underground Railroad.

Excerpt from Coffin's autobiography, Reminiscences of Levi Coffin (Cincinnati, 1876):

On the Underground Railroad (ca. 1850)

The fugitives generally arrived in the night, and were secreted among the friendly colored people or hidden in the upper room of our house. They came alone or in companies, and in a few instances had a white guide to direct them.

 \dots This white man – John Fairfield – had been in the neighborhood for some weeks buying poultry, etc., for market, and though among the whites he assumed to be very pro-slavery, the negroes soon found out that he was their friend.

He was engaged by the slaves to help them cross the Ohio River and conduct them to Cincinnati. They paid him some money which they had managed to accumulate. The amount was small, considering the risk the conductor assumed, but it was all they had. Several of the men had their wives with them, and one woman a little child with her, a few months old. John Fairfield conducted the party to the Ohio River opposite the mouth of the Big Miami, where he knew there were several skiffs [a light rowboat] tied to the bank, near a wood-yard. When I asked him afterward if he did not feel compunctions of conscience [have second thoughts] for breaking these skiffs loose and using them, he replied: "No; slaves are stolen property, and it is no harm to steal boats or anything else that will help them gain their liberty." The entire party crowed into three large skiffs or yawls [small fishing boats], and made their way slowly across the river. The boats were overloaded and sank so deep that the passage was made in much peril [serious and immediate danger]. . . . The entire party waded out through mud and water and reached the shore safely, though all were wet and several lost their shoes. They hastened along the Bank toward Cincinnati, but it was now late in the night and daylight appeared before they reached the city. Their plight was a most pitiable one. They were cold, hungry, and exhausted; those who had lost their shoes in the mud suffered from bruised and lacerated [cut] feet, while to add to their discomfort, a drizzling rain fell during the latter part of the night. . . .

Several plans were suggested [to escape the city], but none seemed practicable. At last I suggested that some one should go immediately to a certain German livery stable in the city and hire two coaches, and that several colored men should go out in the buggies and take the women and children from their hiding places, then . . . the coaches and buggies should form a procession as if going to a funeral, and march solemnly along the road leading to Cumminsville, . . . on the west side of the village, was a prominent abolitionist, and I knew that he would give prompt assistance to the fugitives. . . .