

## 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



**Vocabulary Builder**  
Unorganized territory – Land claimed by the federal government, but lacking political organization on a local level

From 1786 fugitive slaves could escape northwards by a secret route which covered 14 northern states by 1830. From 1840 to 1860 this "Underground Railroad" helped some 50,000 slaves to settle in the North or in Canada. The Federal Fugitive Slave Law of 1793 was countered by the "personal liberty laws" of many northern states.

Source: [www.slaveryinamerica.org/geography/ugrr\\_1860.htm](http://www.slaveryinamerica.org/geography/ugrr_1860.htm) (Downloaded 10/8/2005)



Between 1821-1860 over 15,000 free negroes returned to Africa. In 1822 the negro colony of Liberia was established by the American Colonization Society. It declared itself an Independent Republic in 1847

Negro Slaves	
1790	697,624
1810	1,191,362
1830	2,009,043
1850	3,204,313
1860	3,953,760

Source: [www.encyarta.mnsn.com/media\\_461518192/Underground\\_Railroad.html](http://www.encyarta.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**

**R**anaway from the subscriber, on the night of Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> 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)

Document C

Fugitive Slave Ad Image Two

**CAUTION!!**

**COLORED PEOPLE**  
**OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,**

You are hereby respectfully **CAUTIONED** and advised, to avoid conversing with the **Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,**

For since the recent **ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN,** they are empowered to act as

**KIDNAPPERS**  
**AND**  
**Slave Catchers,**

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

## 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.

. . . 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 crowded 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. . . .