

Name:

Date:



## Following Freedom

### *Webquest for Middle and High Schoolers*

**Introduction:** The Underground Railroad (UGRR) was a network of people that helped escaped enslaved people find their way to freedom. “Conductors” guided freedom seekers between “stations” where they could find food and shelter. Documentation of the UGRR is scarce because while many conductors were guided by fervent religious or moral convictions, their activities were kept secret since it was illegal and punishable by sizable fines or jail time. York County’s geographic location made it a hot spot for the UGRR, but not everyone supported it for various reasons.

**Curriculum Connections:** This activity activates critical thinking skills, reading comprehension, text-based analysis, and outside research exposure. Students will pace through the virtual exhibit, looking at pictures and reading descriptions to answer questions and reflect. The questions are best suited for secondary education students.

#### **Instructions:**

1. Go to the online exhibit at the York County History Center’s website.  
<https://www.yorkhistorycenter.org/york-pa-museums/following-freedom-the-underground-railroad-in-york-county>
2. Use this worksheet as a guide to help you learn more about the people and events that shaped our community.
3. Record your answer to the questions in the spaces below or per your teacher’s instructions.

#### **Answer the following questions:**

1. Looking at the map, why do you think York became a hotspot for the UGRR?
2. Why was York County **NOT** considered a safe place for freedom seekers?
3. **Maryland Line/New Market:** Why was it harder for slave hunters to capture freedom seekers in Pennsylvania?

4. **Shrewsbury:** How did Mariam Berry respond to slave hunters?
5. **Hanover:** Who was “Big Bill” and why was he called that?
6. **Fawn Grove:** What other communities served as stops on the journey from Fawn Grove to York?
7. **Peach Bottom:** What was the next station on the UGRR for freedom seekers when they reached Peach Bottom? How did they get there?
8. **Drumore Township:** What was another name for Peter’s Creek? Why do you think it was called that?
9. **Jonathan Jessop:** What was Jonathan Jessop’s profession? What was he credited with creating?
10. **York:** Why was York a popular location for freedom seekers and slave catchers?
11. **William C. Goodridge:** How did William C. Goodridge transport freedom seekers? Where did he hide freedom seekers in his home?
12. **Samuel Willis:** What was Samuel Willis’ nickname? What is significant about the Willis House and where is it located?
13. **Hallam:** List 3 rumored stations of the UGRR located between York and Hallam.
14. **Jonathan Mifflin:** Jonathan Mifflin was personal friends with what Frenchmen, related to what governor and was married to what member of another abolitionist family?
15. **Wrightsville:** What 2 families were thought to be responsible for escorting 1000s of freedom seekers across the river?
16. **Columbia:** Why was crossing the Susquehanna River worth celebrating?
17. **William Wright:** What was William Wright credited with creating in the 1820s?

18. **William Whipper:** How and with what other abolitionist did William Whipper coordinate activities?
19. **Lewisberry:** Who founded Lewisberry and what group was he a founding member of?
20. **Harrisburg:** Why was Harrisburg the most important city in the region for the UGRR?
21. How did geography influence people's views of the UGRR?
22. Which prominent religious group believed slavery was a sin and against the will of God?
23. Summarize the Prigg vs Pennsylvania court case. Include: the people involved, the outcome of the case and the significance of the case. (3 pts)

**BONUS QUESTION:** The Lewis Miller sketch of the covered bridge crossing the Susquehanna River indicates it was the third bridge built there. What happened to the second bridge?

To learn more, explore these websites:

[Underground Railroad - HISTORY](#)

[Fugitive Slave Acts - HISTORY](#)

[gfc \(goodridgefreedomcenter.org\)](http://goodridgefreedomcenter.org)