



African American Railroading Legacy

Post-Visit Lesson

Grades: 5th grade

Class Time Needed: 45 minutes

Big Idea Students will understand how African Americans have played an important role in the history of the railroad.

Maryland Curriculum Standards

Social Studies Framework

- Essential Question (5th grade): How did conflicts over slavery result in the Civil War?
- Essential Question (5th grade): How did the conclusion of the Civil War affect the United States (North and South) and Maryland?
- Essential Question (5th grade): How has government evolved to expand the meaning of "We the People"?

Materials Needed

Each student needs:

- Pencil
- Coloring utensils (examples: markers, colored pencils, crayons)
- Plain white paper

Teacher needs:

- Read Aloud "Before She Was Harriet" by Lesa Cline-Ransome (book or video link)



Teacher Resources

- “Before She Was Harriet” by Lesa Cline-Ransome read aloud video
<https://youtu.be/oF7A53L230s>
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Lesson Procedure

Introduction:

Read the book “Before She Was Harriet” by Lesa Cline-Ransome. Discuss with students what they know about the Underground Railroad, the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement as well as any information they remember about the railroad from the field trip.

Direct Instruction (Student Activity):

Students will design a poster that could be displayed in the B&O Railroad Museum to highlight the contributions of African Americans on the railroad throughout the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement.

Using a blank piece of paper and coloring materials, students will create illustrations and text that connect what they learned about the railroad and African American history from the field trip, books, or class discussion.

Conclusion:

Allow students to share what person, event or piece of information impacted them most when learning about the African American legacy in railroading.

