

Social Studies - Chapter 3: Coming to Canada.

Directions:

Response Journal: After reading pages 33-40, in your reading response journal for Social Studies, write a one page double spaced response to one of the following questions in the first person:

1. Your name is Giang Trihn and you were born in North Korea. You are a new immigrant to Canada. Explain why you decided to leave your country of origin. Why did you choose Canada and not some other country? What attracted you to Canada? (You must come up with three push factors and two pull factors to justify your why you emigrated from North Korea and Immigrated into Canada.)
2. It is 1834, and, as a slave who works on a plantation, tell what your life and living conditions are like (your ancestors arrived on slave boat from Africa, and you have never known freedom). You have heard that slavery has become illegal in Canada this year. You have decided that you are going to escape from your owner to Canada using the underground railroad. What is the underground railroad? Describe how it works. Why are you taking this risk? What could happen if you are caught? What do you expect Canada will be like when you get there? What are your hopes and dreams for your life in Canada?

Background Information About the Underground Railroad:

For the 240 years from the first African slave until 1860, slaves ran and some escaped to freedom. In 1850, the value of a trained slave was around \$2500 - an enormous sum at a time more than ten times the average person's annual earnings. Thus, slaves were chased by their masters or bounty hunters. Because intelligence agencies placed single men and women in domestic jobs in cities like Syracuse and towns as Geneva, the transportation of slaves to freedom obviously had to be done under the utmost secret of conditions. The transport worked much like a railroad and so it was called **The Underground Railroad**. Once a slave escaped and managed to make contact with sympathisers, he or she became a part of the underground railroad and would hopefully be transported to freedom. Similar to an actual railroad, the act of transporting the escaped slaves incorporated all the terms used during a railroad journey. The routes from safe-house to safe-house (houses where fugitive slaves were kept) were called **lines** and were roughly 15 miles long, but the distance shortened considerably the further north one got. Stopping places were called **stations**. Those who aided fugitive slaves were known as **conductors**. In order to keep terms as clandestine as possible, the fugitive slaves were known as **packages** or **freight**. Though the road to freedom, called **The Underground Railroad**, was organised prior to 1950, the organisation became widespread after The Fugitive Slave Act.

From: <http://www.math.buffalo.edu/~sww/0history/UndergroundRailRoad.html>