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**Kids Activity Downloads**

## Be A Junior Ranger

<https://www.nps.gov/pete/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm>



### Welcome Web Rangers

Would you like to become a web ranger for Petersburg National Battlefield? All you need to do is complete three of the four activities and send the pages to the rangers at Petersburg. By completing these activities, you will become a Junior Ranger.

Earn an official National Park Service certificate for your accomplishments!

Let's get started Web Rangers!

1. Print the activity pages
2. Follow the directions for the activities using pages from the web site. Links will help you navigate to the appropriate pages.
3. Place completed activities inside an envelope and send it to:  
Attention: Web Rangers  
Petersburg National Battlefield  
1539 Hickory Hill Road  
Petersburg, VA 23803.
4. The rangers at Petersburg will check your activities and return an official certificate to you, so please send us your return address.

### Select three of the following activities:

[ACTIVITY #1](#): Outfit a Civil War Soldier for service.

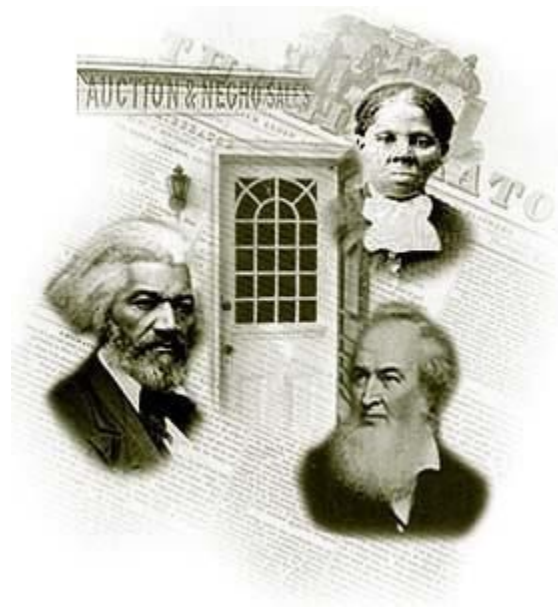
[ACTIVITY #2](#): Get Supplies to the Soldiers in the Field

[ACTIVITY #3](#): Solve the mystery of the Disappearing Trees

[ACTIVITY #4](#): Create your own Regimental Flag

[ACTIVITY #5](#): Illustrate a Soldier's Letter

If you enjoyed completing these activities to become a Web Ranger, visit Petersburg National Battlefield to see the real thing! You can complete the Junior Ranger program at the Battlefield!



NPS Underground Railroad

NPS

## **DISCOVERING THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

What was the Underground Railroad?

An organized system to assist runaway slaves seems to have begun towards the end of the 18th century. In 1786 George Washington complained about how one of his runaway slaves was helped by a "society of Quakers, formed for such purposes." The system grew, and around 1831 it was dubbed "The Underground Railroad," after the then emerging steam railroads. The system even used terms used in railroading: the homes and businesses where fugitives would rest and eat were called "stations" and "depots" and were run by "stationmasters," those who contributed money or goods were "stockholders," and the "conductor" was responsible for moving fugitives from one station to the next.

For the slave, running away to the North was anything but easy. The first step was to escape from the slaveholder. For many slaves, this meant relying on his or her own resources. Sometimes a "conductor," posing as a slave, would enter a plantation and then guide the runaways northward. The fugitives would move at night. They would generally travel between 10 and 20 miles to the next station, where they would rest and eat, hiding in barns and other out-

of-the-way places. While they waited, a message would be sent to the next station to alert its stationmaster.

The fugitives would also travel by train and boat -- conveyances that sometimes had to be paid for. Money was also needed to improve the appearance of the runaways -- a black man, woman, or child in tattered clothes would invariably attract suspicious eyes. This money was donated by individuals and also raised by various groups, including vigilance committees.

Vigilance committees sprang up in the larger towns and cities of the North, most prominently in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. In addition to soliciting money, the organizations provided food, lodging and money, and helped the fugitives settle into a community by helping them find jobs and providing letters of recommendation.

The Underground Railroad had many notable participants, including John Fairfield in Ohio, the son of a slaveholding family, who made many daring rescues, Levi Coffin, a Quaker who assisted more than 3,000 slaves, and Harriet Tubman, who made 19 trips into the South and escorted over 300 slaves to freedom.

Petersburg was a center of African-American history and heritage with a famous Underground Railroad House for escaping slaves and Pocahontas Island, an early neighborhood for freed slaves.

Would you like to become a web ranger for the Underground Railroad? All you need to do is complete three of the four activities and send the pages to the rangers at Petersburg. By completing these activities, you will become a Junior Ranger.

Earn an official National Park Service certificate for your accomplishments!

Let's get started Web Rangers!

1. Print the activity pages
2. Follow the directions for the activities using pages from the web site. Links will help you navigate to the appropriate pages.
3. Place completed activities inside an envelope and send it to:

Attention: Web Rangers  
Petersburg National Battlefield  
1539 Hickory Hill Road  
Petersburg, VA 23803.

4. The rangers at Petersburg will check your activities and return an official certificate to you, so please send us your return address

Select Five of the Following Activities:

[Activity One: Travel Routes](#)

[Activity Two: Safe Refuge](#)

[Activity Three: Freedom Bag](#)

[Activity Four: To Be Free](#)

[Activity Five: Terms to Know](#)

[Activity Six: Road to Freedom Word Search](#)

If you want more information on the Underground Railroad, use the following links.

[NPS Underground Railroad](#)

[National Geographic](#)

[PBS](#)

[Scholastic](#)



Ecology Web Ranger Logo

Kenneth James Damrau

### **Ecology Web Ranger**

One of the greatest challenges facing current and future generations is to build a more sustainable, energy-efficient world. By teaching students about the role of the environment as an important national resource, we can prepare them to take on critical issues – energy conservation, air pollution, climate change, and wildlife protection – and become better stewards of the earth. Studies show that environmental education can help boost student achievement, build students’ critical thinking and social skills, improve student behavior, and can enhance teaching.

Here at Petersburg National Battlefield, wildlife is abundant, and, in certain cases, very visible throughout the park. Deer, rabbit, skunk, groundhog, opossum, and raccoon are some of the most commonly seen species in the park. A variety of avian species frequent the park during different times of the year. Many species of fish, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals have also been documented within the boundaries of Petersburg National Battlefield.

Petersburg National Battlefield's diversity can be partially attributed to the park's widespread locations, and the resulting difference in soil types. The Western Front lies within the Piedmont region of Virginia. This region's soils are mainly derived from acid crystalline rocks (gneiss, granite, and schist groups) which eventually develop into loams and clays. Therefore, the Five Forks area is mostly well-drained sandy loam with a clay loam subsurface. The Atlantic Coastal Plain, in which the Eastern Front lies, is made up of sedimentary rocks and unconsolidated or partially consolidated sands, clays, and gravels. The predominant soil type of this section of the park is Emporia and Norfolk sandy loam.

Water plays a major part in defining Petersburg National Battlefield's environmental conditions. The park is located within two drainage basins; the Chesapeake Bay and Albermarle Sound. Numerous streams and rivers drain the different park areas, creating a network of habitat for many different species of animals. Wetlands make up a portion of the battlefield's area. These transitional areas play an important role in the park's interconnected ecosystem, serving as a buffer and providing habitat for many unique species of animals.

No matter where you live, there is wildlife and nature to be found. We are delighted that you have decided to become an Ecology Web Ranger. The activities below offer a special opportunity to explore parks and recreation areas no matter where you live. The goal of the Ecology Web Ranger Program is for children to gain an appreciation of nature, parks and natural resources. The activities are recommended for children ages 6 - 12. Our goal is for children to learn by doing. Read the introduction to each activity and discuss it with your child to be sure he/she understands it.

### **Ecology Ranger Tips**

1. Always have an adult with you.
2. Stay on trails.
3. Wear sunscreen and drink plenty of water. Wear a hat and shoes.
4. Do not feed wildlife. Report sick animals to park rangers or other authorities.
5. Remain quiet as you look and listen. You will have a better chance of seeing wildlife.
6. Learn what poison ivy looks like. It is in most parks and touching it may give you a rash. Leaves of three, let it be.
7. Always check for ticks soon after being outside.

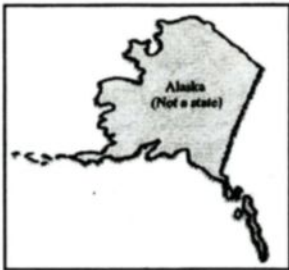
Download the booklet below and complete 6 of the following 8 activities in a National Park, State Park or Recreation Area near you. When you are finished, send your completed activities inside an envelope to:

Attention: Ecology Web Rangers  
Petersburg National Battlefield  
1539 Hickory Hill Road  
Petersburg, VA 23803.

[Activity Booklet](#)

# Travel Routes

Escape routes over land and originating in the southeast spread out like a tangled web throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. Other routes were traveled by water to northern coastal cities, south towards the Caribbean, or round about towards the coast of California, Alaska or Hawaii.



Draw arrows on the map below showing the many routes that escaping slaves may have taken.

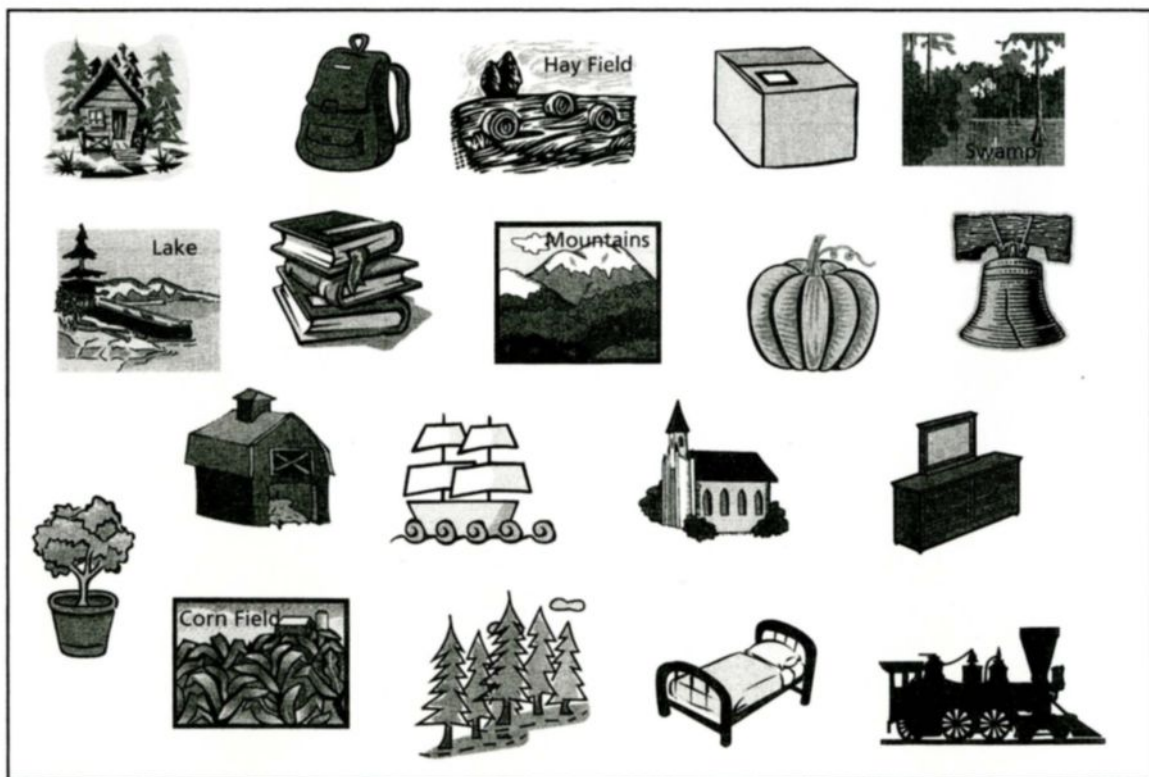
## United States - 1860



# Safe Refuge

Hiding places along the "Underground Railroad" varied as much as the escape routes. Safe-houses, churches, schools, businesses, as well as natural areas such as swamps, bayous, mountains, and waterways provided much needed protection throughout their journey. For those slaves traveling south towards the Spanish Territories of Florida, safety and protection was also found within the Seminole Indian Nation.

Circle places that might be a good hiding place for an escaping slave.





# To Be Free

Write about what "Freedom" means to you.



# Freedom Bag

Imagine that you are a slave getting ready for your escape to freedom. The journey may be long and hard. Circle the items you will take with you? Can you name anything else you might want to take along? Can you explain why you chose these items?

