The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a secret set of hidden roads and safe houses. They were set up to help enslaved people travel north. They were looking for freedom and a better life. It was called, "underground," because the enslaved people had to travel in secret and hide along the way. People who helped the enslaved people were called conductors. They put themselves in danger to help enslaved people escape. People who thought slavery was wrong would let them rest in their homes along the way. These homes were called stations - like train stations.

People who wanted to help enslaved people from the South were called abolitionists. They believed that all humans should have the same freedoms. They thought that no person should be owned by another person. They asked many people to help by letting them into their homes to hide, eat, and sleep. The trip to freedom was long. Sometimes people had to walk more than 1,000 miles. The path was very dangerous. They had to cross rivers, climb mountains, and cut through thick forests.

Harriet Tubman was a conductor for the Underground Railroad. She was once a slave, but was able to get away. She decided to help other enslaved people get away, too. Many people in the South wanted her to be caught and they even put out a reward for her arrest! Her bravery helped save the lives of many enslaved people.

Most traveled at night on foot and used the stars to guide them. They had very little food and were always scared of being caught. Most escape paths led to the Northern United States and Canada. Slavery was illegal in Canada. Some enslaved people found other routes to Mexico. Many enslaved people were afraid to even try to escape because they knew if they were recaptured they would be beaten, shot, or hung. Between the years of 1830 and 1865, more than 30,000 enslaved people were able to escape using the Underground Railroad.

Why do you think it was called the Underground Railroad?

"Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

--Harriet Tubman
THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

What was the Underground Railroad?

________________________________________________________________________

What is an abolitionist?

________________________________________________________________________

Describe the journey many enslaved people took to gain their freedom:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Would you have wanted to travel on the Underground Railroad? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Fort Sumter

There were many big fights that helped the Union troops win the Civil War. They were: The Battle of Fort Sumter, The Battle of Antietam, The Battle of Gettysburg, The Battle of Ironclads, and Sherman's March to the Sea. Each of these fights led to keeping the United States of America together as one country and giving enslaved people their freedom.

The Battle at Fort Sumter was the first battle of the Civil War. Fort Sumter was a Union fort on an island in South Carolina. There were many troops there. These troops had been cut off from the main part of South Carolina and were running out of food and guns. The South chose to attack Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. They hoped that the troops would give up without a fight.

Major Robert Anderson was the leader of the troops at the fort. This attack was the start of the Civil War. Now, President Lincoln had a hard choice to make. He had to protect the Union fort and his troops there. Many more troops would be needed. He called for people to join the army and help with the fight.

By the next morning, the troops in the fort were just about out of food and weapons. The fort was burning down all around them. Major Anderson told his very tired men to hold up the white flag of surrender. Luckily, no one was killed during the battle, but states who had not taken a side in the war yet, quickly did. President Lincoln called all troops in the North to action. It was official, the Civil War had begun.

How do you think President Lincoln felt about the battle at Fort Sumter?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Why was Fort Sumter an important part of the war?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
FORT SUMTER

What happened during the battle?

How did it contribute to the outcome of the war?

Where did it take place?

When did it take place?

One fact I learned:

How did the battle end? Who won?

Copyright 2017 Heart2HeartTeaching.com
The Battle of Antietam

The Battle of Antietam took place on September 17, 1862. It happened at Antietam Creek in the state of Maryland. The Southern troops were led by General Robert E. Lee. The Northern troops were led by General George B. McClellan.

The battle began when the South chose to move into Maryland. This was the first time they chose to fight the Northern troops first. The fight lasted all day. It happened in three parts. The first part happened in some fields to the north of the creek. The second part happened next along a road that had become wet and messy. This made the fight very hard and dangerous. Many troops died here. It was such a bad battle that this part of the road was called, "Bloody Lane." The last part happened in the afternoon when Lee's troops went across a bridge to push back the Southern troops.

The North won the battle. Lee took his troops back home and McClellan decided not to go after them. Lincoln was very unhappy. He thought that if the troops had followed Lee, the war could have ended sooner. Instead, Lee and his troops were able to head home and get ready for the next battle.

When it was over, more people died in this battle than any other day in American history. This win was a big deal to President Lincoln. Now, that the North had won a battle, he shared his Emancipation Proclamation with the public. The Emancipation Proclamation would put an end to slavery in the United States.

Why did President Lincoln wait till after the Battle of Antietam to show the Emancipation Proclamation to the public?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Why was the Battle of Antietam such an important victory for the North?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
BATTLE OF ANTIETAM

What happened during the battle?

How did it contribute to the outcome of the war?

Where did it take place?

When did it take place?

One fact I learned:

How did the battle end? Who won?