

Underground Railroad

Read the paragraph below. Then, write about what you learned. Underline the lines in the paragraph that show where the information you wrote about came from.

The Underground Railroad was a group of people, houses and places to hide that slaves used to escape to freedom. The Underground Railroad did not mean that slaves got on a train. “Underground” means secret. Slaves lived in states in the south so they had a long way to travel to the states in the north where they would be free. The people who took the slaves along the route to freedom were called conductors.

Many different people worked as conductors or had places for slaves to stay along the route north. Sometimes, the people who helped were former slaves who had escaped. Sometimes, the people who helped were just people who thought that slavery was wrong. Traveling along the Underground Railroad was very dangerous. No one knows how many slaves escaped, but some people say between 30,000 and 100,000!

Explain what the Underground Railroad is and why it was needed.
