

Underground Railroad: On to Freedom

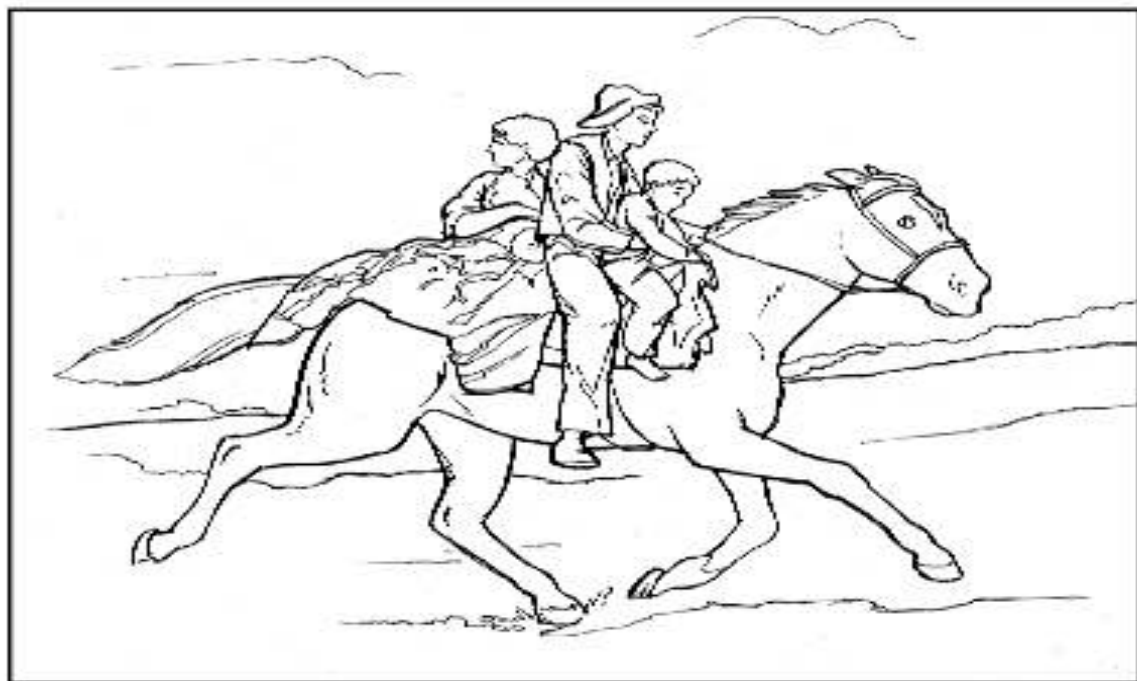
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The Underground Railroad was a group of volunteers that helped slaves in the South before the Civil War. The slaves escaped to freedom in the North, the West and even to Canada or Mexico. The volunteers were white and black, free and enslaved.

It was against the law to help escaping slaves. People who did were punished. That didn't stop the Underground Railroad. In secret they would help the slaves with food, clothing, and money. They hid the escaping slaves in safe places. They helped them go to the next Underground Railroad stop on the road to freedom.

The Underground Railroad used railway words as a code. The houses of the volunteers were called "stations." The leaders that would guide the slaves on the route were called "conductors."

Because it was so secret, no one knows exactly how many people the Underground Railroad helped. It is thought it could be as many as 100,000.



Color the picture of the people escaping to freedom.