

Name _____

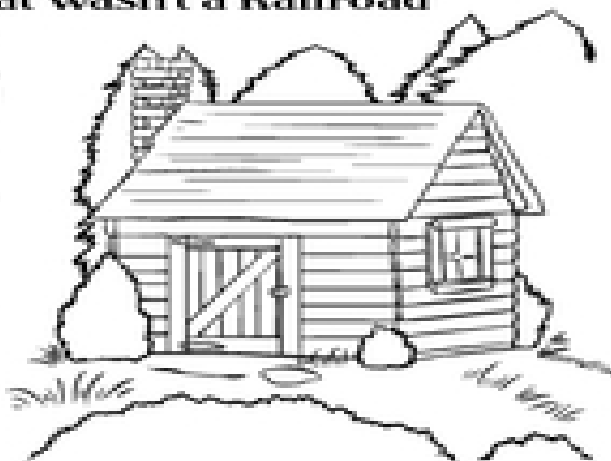
F is for Freedom
Reading for Information

The Railroad That Wasn't a Railroad

Read the passage. Then complete problems 1–6.

In the middle 1800s, many slaves escaped on the Underground Railroad. But the Underground Railroad was not underground. It was not a real railroad either. It was a secret network of paths and hiding places that helped slaves flee north to freedom. The slaves and people helping them used railroad terms to keep details about the underground railroad secret.

People who guided the slaves were known as conductors. Slaves moved along the escape routes at night. They hid during the day. The stations where slaves hid were often inside the shops or homes of people who wanted to end slavery. These stationmasters gave the escaping slaves food, clothing, and places to hide. Thousands of slaves escaped to freedom on the Underground Railroad.



Color the box next to the best answer.

1. What was the Underground Railroad?
 a. a train that ran underground
 b. a network of railroads
 c. a network of paths and hiding places
 d. a train that ran above ground
2. What was the Underground Railroad's purpose?
 a. to give people who like trains something to do
 b. to help slaves escape
 c. to make a secret code
 d. to find slaves
3. According to the passage, people used railroad terms to
 a. learn to talk like a conductor
 b. keep themselves awake
 c. learn more about trains
 d. keep details about the Underground Railroad secret
4. The word *conductors* in this passage means
 a. people who guided the slaves
 b. the slaves
 c. the government
 d. slave owners
5. What did the stationmasters give slaves?
 a. food
 b. clothing
 c. places to hide
 d. all of the above
6. The word *stations* in this passage means places
 a. where trains stopped
 b. people could get on trains
 c. where slaves hid
 d. to get gas

Bonus Box: Underline the main idea of the passage. Then circle three supporting details.