



Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions using clues and evidence from the text.

## The Secret Paths to Freedom: The Underground Railroad



Long ago, before the Civil War, many enslaved people in the American South dreamed of freedom. It was against the law for them to leave their owners. But brave people, both Black and white, created a secret network to help them escape. This network was called the Underground Railroad. It wasn't a real railroad with trains, but a path of safe houses and secret routes.

Travelers moved mostly at night, hiding during the day. They often followed the North Star, which pointed towards freedom. People known as "conductors" guided them, often risking their own lives. These conductors would hide travelers in their homes, barns, or secret rooms. They provided food, fresh clothes, and directions to the next safe stop.



The journey was long and dangerous. If caught, travelers and conductors faced harsh punishments. Yet, many kept going, driven by the hope of a life where they could be truly free. The Underground Railroad helped thousands reach states where slavery was illegal, or even Canada, finding new lives.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Based on the passage, what can you conclude about the people involved in the Underground Railroad?

(A) They were afraid of traveling at night.



- B They were very skilled at building railroads.
- C They were very brave and determined to help or find freedom.
- D They only helped people they knew personally.

**(2) What does the passage suggest about why travelers moved mostly at night?**

- A They preferred the cooler night air for travel.
- B They wanted to use the North Star to guide them.
- C They needed to stay hidden to avoid being caught.
- D They were waiting for trains that only ran at night.

**(3) The author mentions 'risking their own lives' most likely to show that...**

- A conductors were not very careful.  B the journey was a fun adventure.
- C helping others on the Railroad was extremely dangerous.
- D the conductors were paid a lot of money for their help.

**(4) Which statement is NOT well-supported by evidence from the passage?**

- A The Underground Railroad was a secret system.
- B Conductors helped hide people in safe places.
- C The Underground Railroad used real trains to carry people to freedom.
- D Travelers used the North Star to find their way.

**(5)**



**What clues in the passage helped you infer that freedom was very important to the enslaved people? Use details from the passage.**

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