

Racine's Abolitionist Spirit
Before & After Visit Activity Sheets
Racine Heritage Museum

Before Your Visit:

1. Visit these websites:
<http://www.ioweb.com/civilwar/> (Civil War — A Soldier's Diary)
<http://www2.netdoor.com/~jgh/links.html> (Links to Black Soldiers)
Ask your students to then discuss life during the Civil War. Discuss travel, communication and available materials.
2. Have your students look at a map of the United States. Discuss the migration of northern abolitionists into Wisconsin and the migration of southern slave owners into Missouri and other southern states. Show how fugitive slaves would have escaped north into Wisconsin. (Work into activity #4.)
3. Lead a discussion on the differing views regarding slavery at the time. Discuss north vs. south and the difficulty of idea sharing before the railroad and easy transportation.
4. Talk about the meaning of freedom: Why would slaves risk their lives, punishment and separation from their families to be free? Why would people risk their reputations, finances, and lives to help others escape to freedom? (Ask them to try to remember that these people were acting 150 years ago, not in today's world — what kind of pressures would they have?)

After Your Visit:

1. Ask students to share their Museum activity with the class.
2. Revisit the enclosed article. Ask students to write a "letter home" as if they were a Civil War soldier based on the article and their experience at the Museum.
3. Ask students to investigate some Underground Railroad sites in our county:
 - First Presbyterian Church, Racine
 - Ela House, Rochester
 - Dyer House, Burlington
 - Dutton Warehouse, Racine

Why are some of these sites probable? (Secrecy)

