



Dear Educators,

The Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center is excited to offer opportunities to better serve your needs in the classroom. We would like to provide pre-field trip lesson plans, ways to engage your students while on-site, and post field trip project-based lesson plans to authenticate the learning for your students.

Our mission is:

- Students have background knowledge on the Underground Railroad when they arrive at the Heritage Center.
- All students are engaged through hands-on exploration while at the Heritage Center.
- Authenticate the learning with continued learning of curiosities and knowledge gained while at the Heritage Center.

Themes that will drive the curriculum:

- **Crossing the Niagara:** Geographical impacts on those who crossed the Mighty Niagara
- **Power Struggles and Freedom:** Personal narratives of economic and political struggles and successes
- **Past is Always Present:** Personal narratives of current individuals who show courage in overcoming injustices
- **Destination Niagara:** Why did freedom seekers come to Niagara Falls? Showcase the cultural richness of Niagara Falls because of its past.

Methods through which lessons are created:

- All material will be delivered to schools/teachers via Google Workspace prior to visiting the Heritage Center.
- Lesson Plans will come as self guided HyperDocs.
- Curriculum aligns to NYS Standards for the Social Studies in the areas of geography, US and NYS history, citizenship and civic participation. As well as the social studies practices of gathering, interpreting, and using evidence, geographical reasoning, and contextualization.

Pre Field Trip Lesson Plans:

- [Crossing the Niagara: Investigating Local Geography](#)
- [Crossing the Niagara: Investigating Local Geography \(Student HyperDoc\)](#)
- [Historical Documentation of Significant People](#)
- [Historical Documentation of Significant People \(Student HyperDoc\)](#)
- [A Nation Created on Ideals](#)
- [A Nation Created on Ideals \(Student HyperDoc\)](#)
- [Inconsistent Morality: Fugitive Slave Laws](#)
- [Inconsistent Morality: Fugitive Slave Laws \(Student HyperDoc\)](#)
- [Acts of Resistance](#)
- [Acts of Resistance \(Student HyperDoc\)](#)

[Informative Letter to Administration](#) on the Heritage Center learning opportunities

While on site:

- Students and teachers will experience a guided tour with a brochure designed to enhance engagement with discussion questions.
- Students and teachers will have an opportunity to take pictures while at the Heritage Center. Photographs can be used for future learning experiences while back in the classroom.
 - Students will use personal or school issued photography devices to document their experience. See [Photography Permissions Form](#).

Back in the Classroom:

- Photos taken on site will be used in multiple learning opportunities to further the learning and curiosities created.
- Project Based Learning models will be encouraged with opportunities to expand school and community involvement toward the ***Seal of Civic Readiness*** through:
 - [Field Trip Organization for Cooperative Groups](#)
 - [Teacher Directions: Field Trip Organization for Cooperative Groups](#)
 - [Getting your project off the ground...](#)

We hope you have enjoyed the experience and find the resources provided an engaging learning experience. Please complete the evaluation below. It's only five questions and will help to improve our experiences for future teachers and students!

Sincerely,

The Team at NFUGRRHC!

[Evaluation of the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center Experience](#)

Answer Keys

[Answer Key: Crossing the Niagara: Investigating Local Geography](#)

[Answer Key: Historical Documentation of Significant People](#)

[Answer Key: A Nation Created on Ideals](#)

[Answer Key: Inconsistent Morality: Fugitive Slave Laws](#)

[Answer Key: Acts of Resistance](#)