

TIP for NCTA Seminar
Kathy Ward, 6th Grade, Columbus City Schools

Korea – The Underground Railroad (One to two days, 45 – 60 min. per day)

The Ohio New State Standards Addressed in the Lesson Plans

KOREA – Underground Railroad

- **Geography** – 6.7. Political, environmental, social and economic factors cause people, products and ideas to move from place to place in the Eastern Hemisphere in the past and today.
- 6.8a. Modern cultural practices and products show the influence of tradition and diffusion.
- **ELA** – RI.6.7. Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
- W.6.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- SL.6.2. Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
- L.6.6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

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Since the Korean War, Korea has been split into North and South Korea. Although both parts of Korea were run by dictators, the South has fared much better, and today, the people thrive with a democratic government. The horrors in the North are well documented. There is now an Underground Railroad by which those in South Korea are trying to help bring Northern Koreans to freedom. China is the closest and easiest route to take except for the fact that if the escapees are caught by the Chinese government, they are deported back to North Korea where they will meet certain death.

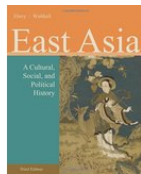
A documentary film called *Seoul Train* has been made to show the plight of the North Koreans and their would-be South Korean saviors. This is a fascinating, modern-day movement that ties in well with our own past here in the USA. After reading *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History* by Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall, I was impressed anew at the historical longevity and cruelty of slavery around the world. Being immersed in the American dialogue, it's easy to think that slavery was truly horrific in the Americas, but much more humane in the rest of the world. Absolutely not true. It was even more

horrifying, as if American slavery wasn't horrific enough. Unfortunately, slavery still exists in our modern world, and *Seoul Train* is a good reminder of one of its ugly forms.

After reading the novel *The House of Dies Drear* (a book that deals with a Dutch abolitionist, three slaves he was trying to help reach freedom, and the preservation of the history he left behind), I am going to talk to my students about slavery in the rest of the world and how there is an Underground Railroad running in Korea. Then I will show them *Seoul Train*. While watching *Seoul Train*, the students will each have a map on which they follow the route on which the conductor is moving the passengers. We'll already have done map work for *The House of Dies Drear* showing escapes routes used by slaves in the USA. Hopefully, this activity will resonate with the students that people are still trying to escape slavery imposed by a government.

Resources for each Lesson Plan

KOREA ~



- *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, by Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall
- *Seoul Train* Documentary, <http://seoultrain.com/purchase/>