Lesson Title: Reason vs. Risk

Grade Levels: 4-8

Class Time needed: One class session

Content Standard: See page 36

Objectives:

Introduce students to the Underground Railroad and the condition of enslaved people in North America from the colonial period to the Thirteenth Amendment (17th—19th centuries).

Rationale:

To enhance the experience of visiting the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, students should be able to theorize and articulate the many risks involved in seeking one’s freedom.

Description of lesson/activity:

1. Students are to individually fill out the worksheet that raises the question of Reason vs. Risk for running away.
2. As a class, discuss why or why not someone might choose to seek freedom.

Materials:

Reason vs. Risk worksheet

Assessment:

Formal: Worksheet
Informal: Observation of discussion
Reason vs. Risks
An enslaved person faced many mixed emotions about escaping. Think about what things would be gained from running away and list them in the “Reasons to Leave” column. Then think about all of the risks involved in running away and list them under “Risks.” After listing these discuss with your class whether you would leave or stay.

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<th>Reasons to Leave</th>
<th>Risks</th>
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My choice is: