LESSON MAKER PRO

Debate Trail

Trace how actions, laws, and stories changed the slavery debate.

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.10d

SS24.US1.10d "Evaluate how the Underground Railroad and its leaders shaped the national discussion over slavery, including the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act and publication of Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin."

NAME _____ **DATE** _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1. Use facts from the Topic card to support your ideas.
2. Connect your claims to the national debate over slavery.
3. Let each speaker finish before you respond.
4. You may agree, differ, or keep your view when the evidence supports it.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one Topic card and read its question aloud.
2. Each player takes one Role card. With three players, share the Debate Mapper job.
3. Shuffle two copies of the Move cards and deal four cards to each player.
4. Agree on an eight-minute stop time. Play a Move card to the middle only when you genuinely use its starter and finish the blank aloud.
5. Stop at the agreed time, even if cards remain unused. Check the reflection statements.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

- [ ] I used a fact about the Underground Railroad or its leaders.
- [ ] I can explain how the Fugitive Slave Act could affect the debate beyond the South.
- [ ] I can explain how Uncle Tom's Cabin could affect views of slavery.
- [ ] I supported a view I kept or changed, or named a difference our group did not resolve.

Cut along the dashed lines

TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC

Tubman's Leadership

Harriet Tubman repeatedly guided enslaved people to freedom through the Underground Railroad, a network of helpers and safe places. How could her leadership shape arguments about slavery beyond the people she helped?

TOPIC

Escape and Law

The 1850 Fugitive Slave Act required federal officials to help return people who escaped slavery, even from free states. How might Underground Railroad work and this law have intensified the national debate?

TOPIC

Stories and Rescues

Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 novel Uncle Tom's Cabin portrayed the cruelty of slavery. How might the novel and accounts of Underground Railroad rescues have shaped the national debate in different ways?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE

Fact Finder

Check that claims about escapes, the law, or the novel fit the facts on your Topic card.

ROLE

Impact Tracker

Listen for explanations of how the topic affected debate beyond one person or place.

ROLE

View Spotter

Notice whose views of slavery might be affected and whether the group has evidence for that claim.

ROLE

Debate Mapper

Track what the group agrees on, where views differ, and what remains uncertain.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD

NAME EVIDENCE

"A specific fact that matters is ____."

MOVE CARD

NAME EVIDENCE

"One detail from our Topic card is ____."

MOVE CARD

TRACE IMPACT

"That could change the national debate because ____."

MOVE CARD

TRACE IMPACT

"This reached beyond one person or place by ____."

MOVE CARD

COMPARE EFFECTS

"Compared with what we just discussed, ____."

MOVE CARD

COMPARE EFFECTS

"These shaped the debate differently because ____."

MOVE CARD

MAP VIEWS

"Our group can say ____."

MOVE CARD

WEIGH EVIDENCE

"After hearing the evidence, I ____."

Cards last longer on thick paper.

Debate Trail

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the eight Move cards per group, and rotate roles if groups play another round. Invite quieter players to add a fact or explain an effect without requiring them to play a card; accept unused cards and evidence-supported agreement, differences, or unchanged views.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Nia	A specific fact that matters is the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act required federal officials to help return people who escaped slavery, even from free states.
Omar	That could change the national debate because people in free states could no longer treat slavery as only a Southern issue.
Jules	Compared with what we just discussed, the Underground Railroad challenged slavery by helping people escape rather than by enforcing a law.
Maya	This reached beyond one person or place by making escape and recapture matters of conflict across state lines.
Nia	Our group can say the law and the Underground Railroad both brought conflicts over slavery into free states.

LISTEN FOR

- Accurate use of the Topic card's facts about Tubman, the 1850 law, or Stowe's novel
- A causal link between Underground Railroad activity and national arguments over slavery
- A distinction between the law's enforcement, the network's actions, and the novel's influence
- An evidence-supported summary that allows agreement, unresolved differences, or an unchanged view

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.