

2017 Cultural Experience Project - The APEX Museum

Venue: The APEX Museum
135 Auburn Ave. NE
Atlanta, Ga 30303

Contact: Deborah Strahorn **Phone** 404-523-2739 **email** deb.apexmuseum@gmail.com

LESSON PLAN

Type of Experience: Exploring the Underground Railroad.

Follow the Drinking Gourd: Escape to Freedom

Students will learn about the Underground Railroad and explore how slaves and abolitionists collaborated to make these attempts at freedom possible. The Museum's Storyteller-In-Residence will perform the story "Follow the Drinking Gourd" and lead a student discussion on verses of the song by the same name, to identify hidden meanings. Symbols of the Underground Railroad will be viewed to help students gain a deeper knowledge of how the north star and quilts mapped out the route to freedom. The visit will include a tour of the entire museum which includes "The Journey" video which documents the rich history and culture of Africans before slavery, followed by their captivity and the middle passage voyage to America.

Georgia Performance Standards: see attached

Study Guide: Available on [APEX Website](#)

- **Planetary Science:** Discussion of the constellations and how the stars guided slaves to the northern region?
- **Literature connection:** Storyteller- in-Residence will tell the story Follow the Drinking Gourd.
- **Comprehension:** Understanding the slave trade and how & why slaves wanted to flee.
- **Activities:** Viewing some of the symbols that were sewn into quilts that guided slaves along the route. Study verses of the song Follow the Drinking Gourd to detect the underlying messages in the story & Song "Follow the Drinking Gourd."
- **Quilts:** Discuss how the use of quilts aided slaves in planning their escapes.
- **Optional** - A quilt display may be part of the Museum Experience

Georgia Performance Standards

Reading in Science & Technical Subjects

L6-8RST1: Astronomy: Cite evidence to support the analysis of how specific constellations guided slaves to freedom.

Reading in History/Social Studies

L6-8RH2: Determine the central ideas behind the meaning of the lyrics of the song “Follow the Drinking Gourd” and provide an accurate summary of the clues in the song.

L6-8RH3: Identify key steps in the process by which a conductor of the Underground Railroad helped slaves escape and gain their freedom.

L6-8RH4: Engage in discussion about the various components of the escape plan and the actual journey, to include the meaning of various words and phrases.

L6-8RH7: View the visual symbols and pictures used on the quilts to understand how the designs were used to reveal messages to help slaves plan their escape and aid them as they journeyed northward.

Writing in History/Social Studies

L6-8WHST1: Write a short essay using facts from the story, the quilts of Gees Bend and the other symbols that slaves used during the period of the Underground Railroad Experience.