LHR & The Underground Railroad

Grades 3-4 (Adapt as Needed)
Prepared by the Lumber Heritage Region Educators

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Highlight the history and connections of the Lumber Heritage Region and the Underground Railroad in America. Deepen understanding of the importance of the Underground Railroad and some of the routes through the Lumber Heritage Region. Acknowledging significant people involved with the Underground Railroad and their ties to the lumber industry.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

1. Social Studies: Connections & Conflict
2. Geography
3. History
4. Civics & Government
5. Pennsylvania Integrated Standards for Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology, and Engineering

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will demonstrate the flow of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River to the Susquehanna River and into the Chesapeake Bay.
2. Students will explain who Daniel Hughes was and his work as a lumber raftsman and conductor of the Underground Railroad.
3. Students will be able to identify the likely routes Daniel Hughes would have used to help those escaping slavery.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Map of watersheds and rivers relevant to LHR (Rivers should show the West Branch of the Susquehanna River *at least* from Williamsport, PA to Harve de Grace, MD.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

1. https://underground.lynnestomin.com/
2. https://lumberheritage.org/rivers-timbers/
3. https://www.google.com/maps
4. https://handsonheritage.com/daniel-hughes-giant-of-freedom-road/
1. https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1LOO7qYH7V5M4K7UJu1X2czfe0rtu6Xo&ll=40.60762140203485%2C-77.4598957635107&z=10

ACTIVITY

As a class, read the story of Daniel Hughes.
Using a map of the teacher/instructor's choice, students should locate certain points on the map (sample here…https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1LOO7qYH7V5M4K7UJu1X2czfe0rtu6Xo&ll=40.60762140203485%2C-77.4598957635107&z=10). *Extension - students can help create a map(s).*

"Connect the dots" - find the best path for Daniel Hughes to travel (by raft) to Harve de Grace, MD and return (on foot) to his home in Williamsport, PA and connect these points. Arrows can be added to show the direction traveled.
Map will include Williamsport, PA to Chesapeake Bay and Havre De Grace, MD as well as the West Branch of the Susquehanna and Susquehanna Rivers.

Discussion - have students consider which part of the trip would be the fastest and which part would take the longest.
Students should analyze a map and consider where they think Daniel Hughes and those he was assisting would have been able to rest; *this can be added to the map and key.*

Extension - have children add their school's community to the map and the nearest major waterway and where it flows into.

ASSESSMENT

Steps to check for student understanding

1. Class Discussion - Suggested Prompts
    a. Why did Daniel Hughes raft the Susquehanna River?
    b. Where does all water eventually flow?
    c. How did Daniel Hughes use his resources to help others?
    d. What was the Underground Railroad?

The Story of Daniel Hughes

By Rowan Crisp - Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Who was Daniel Hughes?

Daniel Hughes was born in 1804 in New York. In 1828, he moved to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Ann. They had 16 children and lived north of the city. Daniel was very tall—about 6 feet 8 inches! Because of his bravery in helping people escape slavery, some called him **"The Giant of Freedom Road."**

Logging and the River

In the 1800s, Williamsport was one of the most important places for the **lumber industry**. People cut down many trees in what we now call the **Lumber Heritage Region**. Logs were sent down rivers, like the **Susquehanna River**, to be sold. Williamsport became known as the **"Lumber Capital of the World."**
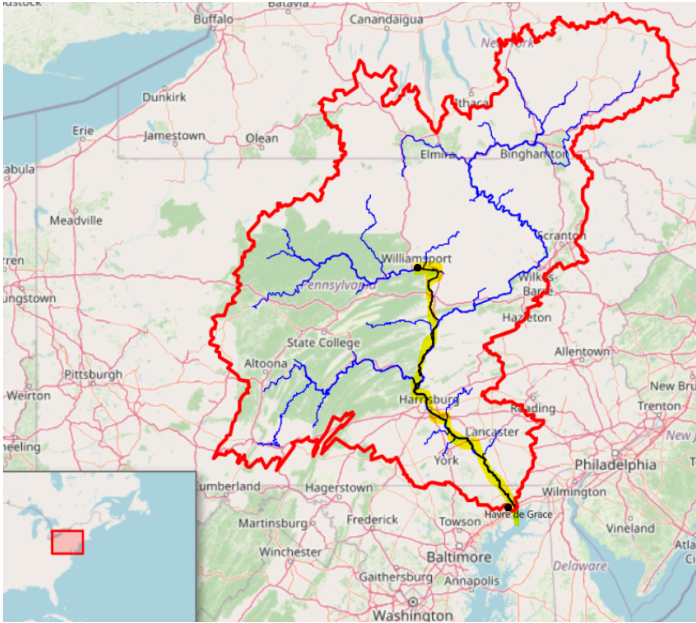

The Underground Railroad

At the same time, many people in the **Southern states** were enslaved. They were not free and were forced to work without pay. Some brave people ran away to find freedom in the **Northern states and other countries**, where slavery was illegal. They traveled at night, often using secret routes and safe houses called the **Underground Railroad**. This was not a real railroad nor was it underground. It was a secret network of people who helped freedom seekers escape.

Helping freedom seekers was very dangerous. A law called the **Fugitive Slave Act** made it illegal to help people who had escaped slavery. Anyone caught could be punished.

Daniel Hughes' Secret Mission

Daniel Hughes worked as a **lumberman**. He traveled from **Williamsport, PA, to Havre de Grace, MD**, moving logs down the river on his **lumber barge**. On his way back, he **hid people escaping slavery** on his barge. He used dark, moonless nights to avoid being seen by bounty hunters and slave catchers.

When he reached Williamsport, he and his family hid the freedom seekers in their home or in **nearby caves**. The thick forests helped keep them safe. Daniel's son, Robert, later remembered:

"I was just a little boy, but I remember carrying food to them in the woods. They usually traveled in groups of two or three. Sometimes, patrollers came looking for runaways, but they never caught anyone at our house."

A Lasting Legacy

Daniel and his family helped **about 1,000** people escape to freedom—and **never lost a single one**.

Later, he gave some of his land to create **Freedom Road Cemetery**, where **nine African American soldiers** from the **Civil War** are buried. Daniel Hughes passed away in 1880. He was buried in an unmarked grave, just as he had wished.

Today, his story is remembered as part of the **Lumber Heritage Region** and the history of the **Underground Railroad**.