

**T**he Underground Railroad was created at the beginning of the 19th Century as a network of secret routes and safe houses going up the eastern United States. Slaves in the South escaped via this system called the underground railroad, a majority of them settled in Upper Canada which is now known as Ontario. Slavery was abolished in Canada by this time so the escapees referred to Canada as the “Promised Land” and they rode the “Freedom train” towards it. The majority of the African slaves came from West-Central Africa and only the strong and healthy were brought over to the United States to work under an owner.

The trip to the New World was long and unsanitary which resulted in a death rate of around forty percent. The demand was high for slaves because of the dangerous jobs their owners could have them do. Many worked in mines and plantations with little to no breaks. When many of the slaves escaped they were considered valuable workers in Canada and were treated accordingly.



# THE Underground RAILROAD