

# ESCAPE TO FREEDOM

In the days of the Underground Railroad, legend says that supporters of escaping slaves would hang a quilt with geometric designs outside their homes or businesses. The quilt designs were symbols of safe places to stop, directed slaves where to go next, or told where safety could be found. This helped them move from “station” to “station” since most slaves could not read. Here are some examples used.



Star - Follow the North Star. Worked in conjunction with the popular song, “Follow the Drinking Gourd,” a reference to the Big Dipper constellation.



Bowtie Dress - Dress in a disguise, or put on a change of clothes.



Crossroads - Refers to Cleveland, Ohio, a destination offering several routes to freedom. It also signifies reaching a point where a person’s life will change, so one must be willing to go on.



Drunkard’s Path - Create a zigzag path, do not walk in a straight line, to avoid pursuers in this area.



Wagon Wheel - Load the wagon or prepare to board the wagon to begin the escape.

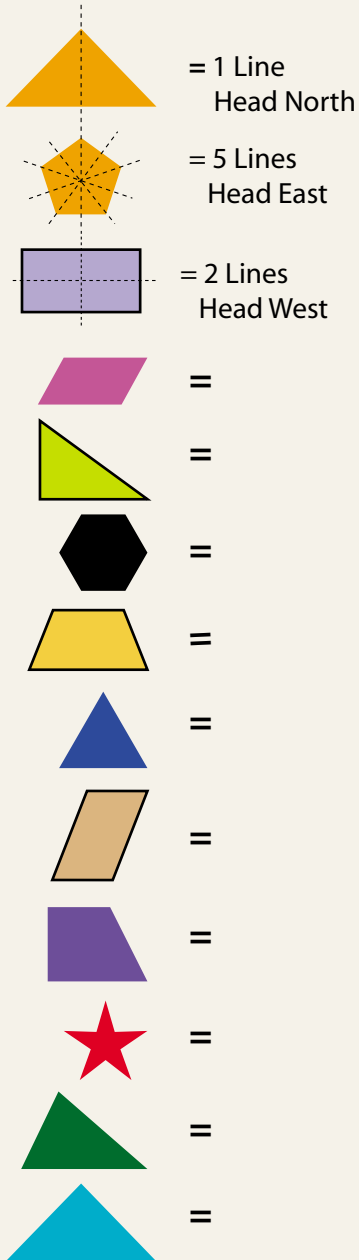
To learn more about the Underground Railroad you can go to: [www.ohioundergroundrailroad.org](http://www.ohioundergroundrailroad.org).



**Fact:** It was against the law to teach a slave to read.

**Fact:** The slaves used symbols to read messages.

A shape has symmetry if the one side of the line is identical to the other side and can be folded to match perfectly. How many lines of symmetry are in each shape? Three examples are shown.



## Your Guide to Freedom

Starting in Ripley, find the safe path to freedom found in the port of Cleveland. Here are the rules:

**If the shape has**

1 line of symmetry = head north

2 lines of symmetry = head west

3+ lines of symmetry = head east

No lines of symmetry = You've been caught. Go Back!



A line of symmetry is an imaginary line that divides a shape in half so that one side is a perfect reflection of the other. Below is an example. Use scissors to cut the other shapes out and fold each one as many different ways as you can so that each side is identical, like the example below.

Note: If you do not have scissors, then just fold and hold it up to the light.

