

# GOING UNDERGROUND

**UNDERGROUND** is the gripping saga of a group of slaves who escape from a Georgia plantation on the Underground Railroad, and the white abolitionists who join them in defiance of the law and protect them from their pursuers. The second season, premiering March 8, 2017 on WGN, continues the characters' unremitting struggle for freedom within a divided America on the brink of civil war, each side vying to enact their own justice.

## DISCOVERY PART 1

See how much you already know about the Underground Railroad by answering *True* or *False* to the following questions.

- |   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Those who helped slaves along the routes of the Underground Railroad were called conductors.                   | T                        | F                        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Stations along the Underground Railroad were generally 50-100 miles apart.                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The Underground Railroad was most active in the 1850s.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. After the Fugitive Slave Act was passed in 1850, runaway slaves weren't really safe until they reached Canada. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. In 1780, Pennsylvania became the first state to abolish slavery.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The Underground Railroad passed through 10 states.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The Mississippi River was referred to as the River Jordan by slaves, referencing the Bible.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Slavery was abolished by the 15th Amendment in 1870.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Frederick Douglass led the Underground Railroad efforts in New York.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. On the Underground Railroad, escaped slaves were referred to as "passengers" or "cargo."                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



# UNDERGROUND

SEASON 2 PREMIERES ON WGN AMERICA, MARCH 8, 2017

## DISCOVERY PART 2

Watch the trailer for season 2 of **UNDERGROUND** at [bit.ly/undergroundwgn](http://bit.ly/undergroundwgn). Then, working in groups, research background on **UNDERGROUND** characters—real and fictitious—who represent various roles in antebellum history.

- **Rosalee**—A young slave who has spent most of her days sequestered in the Macon Plantation's "big house," Rosalee becomes a soldier of freedom and finds the courage to take significant risks in an effort to rescue her family and others.
- **Noah**—A skilled blacksmith, Noah's plan got the Macon 7 off the plantation. He is now driven to free more people.
- **Ernestine**—Formerly the head house slave on the Macon Plantation, she did her best to protect her children. Now separated from them, she's had to make a new life on a rice plantation.
- **Cato**—A cunning and charismatic man, despised and feared by his fellow slaves. His moral compass is as flexible as his loyalties.
- **August Pullman**—A lone-wolf slave trader who isn't invested in the moral quandary of slavery. When his best-laid plans go awry, August finds a darker motivation than money: revenge.
- **Abolitionists John and Elizabeth Hawkes**—Driven by a sense of morality, John and Elizabeth are willing to break laws to help end slavery.
- **Harriet Tubman**—At age 27, she ran for freedom and then rescued more than 300 slaves in over 11 years.

Use these resources to discover more about the roles played by people in antebellum history.

- Learn more about the conditions under which slaves lived at [pbs.org/wnet/slavery/experience/living/history2.html](http://pbs.org/wnet/slavery/experience/living/history2.html)
- Explore the world of fugitive slaves at <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maai/community/text7/text7read.htm>
- Discover more about courageous abolitionists at [historynet.com/abolitionist-movement](http://historynet.com/abolitionist-movement)
- Find out about life as a conductor on the Underground Railroad at [eiu.edu/eiutps/UNDERGROUND\\_railroad.php](http://eiu.edu/eiutps/UNDERGROUND_railroad.php)
- Learn about heroes of the Underground Railroad at <http://freedomcenter.org/enabling-freedom/heroes>
- Read the 1849 address delivered before a meeting of the members and friends of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society during the annual fair at [https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/collection/search?edan\\_q=Underground+Railroad&edan\\_local=1&op=Search](https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/collection/search?edan_q=Underground+Railroad&edan_local=1&op=Search)

**Discussion:** Consider how the following real-life, historical events would have affected each character and the actual people those characters represent:

- The publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852)
- Dred Scott decision (1857)
- The Panic of 1857
- John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry (1859)
- Election of Abraham Lincoln as President (1860)
- Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation (1863)



**UNDERGROUND**, produced by John Legend and created by Misha Green and Joe Pokaski, stars Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Aldis Hodge, Jessica De Gouw, Alano Miller, Amirah Vann, Christopher Meloni, and joining the cast in Season 2, Aisha Hinds as Harriet Tubman.