Underground Railroad

[Map of the Underground Railroad showing routes from the South to Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States.]

- Free states—slavery prohibited
- Slave states—slavery permitted
- Territory—slavery permitted by local decision
- Approximate route of flight

The map only approximates the actual routes that enslaved people took. Many routes were used, and the success of the Underground Railroad depended on the cooperation of free and enslaved people. The routes often involved travel through the South, across the Ohio River, and into Canada. Some routes went through the Caribbean and Mexico. The map highlights the complexity and secrecy of the Underground Railroad, with numerous branches and detours to avoid capture by slave catchers.