



# The Iditarod and the Underground Railroad

## Journey of Courage

Read the passage. Use what you already know and what you read here to compare and contrast the Iditarod and the Underground Railroad.

The Iditarod is a famous dog sled race in Alaska that takes place every year. It covers over 1,000 miles of snowy terrain, where mushers and their dogs navigate through harsh weather and challenging landscapes to get to each checkpoint. This race is not just a test of speed but also a show of teamwork and endurance. Mushers must work closely with their dogs, caring for them and ensuring they are strong enough to complete the journey. Similarly, the Underground Railroad was a secret network of stations, led by conductors, that helped enslaved African Americans escape to freedom. It was not a real railroad, but a series of safe houses and people who assisted those seeking a better life. Both the Iditarod and the Underground Railroad represent journeys filled with bravery and determination.

While the Iditarod is a rule-based race celebrated for its excitement and adventure, the Underground Railroad was a serious and dangerous path to freedom of over 500 miles. The mushers and their dogs face harsh weather, but they choose to participate for a prize and honor. On the other hand, those who traveled the Underground Railroad risked their lives to escape from slavery and find safety. Both journeys required great courage, strength, and perseverance, as well as planning, but the reasons behind them were very different. The Iditarod showcases the spirit of competition, while the Underground Railroad highlights the fight for freedom and justice.



