



CRAFT IN AMERICA

SCHROEDER CHERRY: UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, NOT A SUBWAY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grade Level: K-5

Craft In America Theme/Episode: PLAY

This guide focuses on a puppet show performed by artist, educator, and puppeteer Dr. Schroeder Cherry. The puppet show tells the story of an important topic in U.S. history. The guide also includes suggestions for extension activities: designing puppets and using them to present further research about the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Note about dates: The start of the Underground Railroad was in the early 1800s. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863. The Children's Civil Rights Crusade started on May 2nd in 1963 and lasted several days.

ABOUT SCHROEDER CHERRY

Dr. Schroeder Cherry, a native of Washington, DC, now a Baltimore-based artist working with puppets, paintings and mixed media assemblages. Cherry captures everyday scenes of African American life, often set in barbershops and utilizing repurposed materials. He has worked in museums across the US, including The Art Institute of Chicago; Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum; Studio Museum of Harlem; J.Paul Getty Museum; The Baltimore Museum of Art; and Maryland Historical Society. He has held senior grant maker positions at Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. He is the Museum Curator at the James E. Lewis Museum of Art and currently teaches museum studies at Morgan State University. His works "are open-ended narratives inspired by travel, music, literature, folklore, and everyday events."