

HARRIET TUBMAN

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SLAVERY

Harriet later worked a number of jobs on the **plantation**. This included plowing fields, loading produce into wagons, hauling logs, and driving oxen. She became very strong from doing all of this manual labor. When Harriet was thirteen, she suffered a horrible head injury while visiting town to pick up supplies. A slave owner tried to throw an iron weight at one of his slaves, but ended up hitting Harriet instead. It nearly killed her and caused her to have dizzy spells, blackouts, seizures, and narcoleptic episodes the rest of her life.



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

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ESCAPE

Harriet decided to escape in 1849 using the Underground Railroad. It was a long and scary trip for her, but she finally made it to **Pennsylvania**, where she was free. Harriet said of this event, "I had crossed the line of which I had so long been dreaming. I was free, but there was no one to welcome me to the land of freedom, I was a stranger in a strange land."



"MOSES"

The **Fugitive Slave Act** was passed in 1850, meaning slaves could be taken from Free states and returned to their owners. This meant in order to be free, slaves had to escape to **Canada**. Harriet wanted to help others to safety in Canada, so she joined the Underground Railroad as a conductor. Harriet became famous on the Underground Railroad, leading nineteen different escapes from the South, helping about 300 slaves to their freedom. She became known as "**Moses**." Like Moses in the Bible, Harriet helped lead her people to freedom while risking her life and freedom to help others.

CONDUCTOR

Harriet Tubman led her mother and father to freedom. She never caught or lost a slave. She once said, "I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say, I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger." Harriet devised clever techniques to make her trips successful. She



usually used the master's horse and buggy for the first leg of the journey and left on a Saturday night since **runaway notices** could not be placed until Monday morning. She headed south if she encountered possible slave hunters. Harriet carried a drug with her to use on babies if their crying could put fugitives in danger. She even carried a gun to use to threaten fugitives if they became too tired or wanted to turn back, telling them, "You'll be free or die."

ACHIEVEMENTS

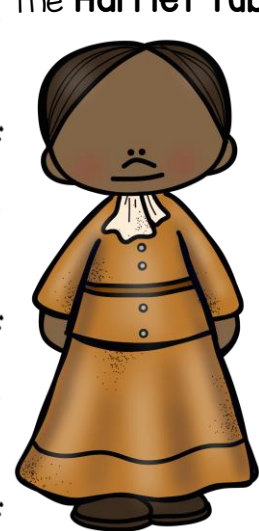
Harriet was so successful in helping slaves to escape that slave owners offered a **reward** of \$40,000 for her capture at one point. On one occasion, Harriet overheard some men reading her Wanted poster, stating that she was **illiterate**. She promptly pulled out a book and feigned reading it. This was enough to fool the men. Harriet also helped during the **Civil War**, nursing injured soldiers, serving as a **spy** for the north, and even helping a military campaign that led to the rescue of over 750 slaves. Harriet purchased land in Auburn, New York after the Civil War and lived there with her family. She helped the poor and sick and spoke out for equal rights for blacks and women.

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Harriet was married twice. She was first married to a free black man named **John Tubman** in 1844. Not a lot is known of their marriage. Any children they would have had would have been slaves, since freedom went by the classification of the mother. Harriet married her second husband, **Nelson Davis**, a Civil War veteran in 1869. They adopted a baby girl named **Gertie** in 1874.

FINANCES

Harriet was never financially secure, despite her fame and reputation. Her friends and supporters raised funds for her. Sarah H. Bradford wrote a biography about Harriet, entitled **Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman**. Proceeds from the book went to Harriet and her family. Despite her economic woes, Harriet still gave freely. She donated a parcel of her land in 1903 to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Auburn. In 1908, the **Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged** opened on the site.



LEGACY

Harriet's head injury worsened as she got older. She underwent brain surgery to help alleviate the pains and "buzzing" she experienced regularly. She was eventually admitted into a rest home named in her honor. Harriet died March 10, 1913 of **pneumonia** while surrounded by friends and family. She was widely known and well-respected when alive, but became even more of an American icon in the years after her death. At the end of the 20th century, a survey named her as one of the most famous civilians in America prior to the Civil War, third only to Betsy Ross and Paul Revere. Harriet is still an inspiration to Americans struggling for civil rights with her bravery and bold action. She has dozens of schools named in her honor and other public facilities. She was quite a remarkable woman.

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MULTIPLE CHOICE:

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13. Why did slaves have to escape to Canada for full freedom?
- A. All the states in America were slave states
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Harriet Tubman

by Eloise Greenfield

Harriet Tubman didn't take no stuff
Wasn't cared of nothing neither
Didn't come in this world to be no slave
And wasn't going to stay one either

"Farewell!" she sang to her friends one night
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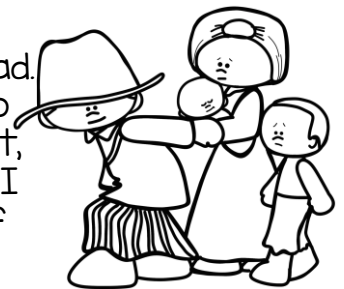


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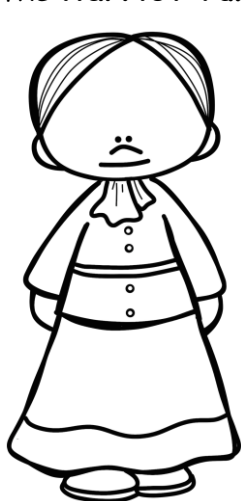
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