

# Harriet Tubman



by Tiffany Gibson

Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harriet Tubman</li> <li>• Underground Railroad</li> <li>• Slavery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labels and Captions</li> <li>• Map</li> <li>• Headings</li> <li>• Historical Photographs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compound Words</li> <li>• Multiple-Meaning Words</li> </ul>

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## Question of the Week

When do people choose to make sacrifices?

### Key Comprehension Skill

Generalize

### Concept Words

enslaved people	escaped	rescue
confused	spy	honored

### Learning Goals:

- Harriet Tubman made sacrifices to help others.
- Harriet Tubman helped enslaved people escape.
- Harriet Tubman helped others her entire life.

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# Harriet Tubman



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Glenview, Illinois • Boston, Massachusetts  
Chandler, Arizona • Upper Saddle River, New Jersey



Enslaved people did not have any freedoms.

## *Harriet Tubman and Slavery*

Harriet Tubman was born in 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland. She and her parents, Benjamin Ross and Harriet Green, were **enslaved people**.

Slave owners made enslaved people work without pay. Enslaved people could not leave their owners. Slave owners did not allow enslaved people to go to school. Some slave owners treated enslaved people very badly.

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**enslaved people:** people who work for someone and are not paid for their work



Enslaved people worked very hard for long hours in the fields.

Harriet and her parents lived on the Brodas *plantation*. Plantations were large farms that grew cotton and other plants. Plantation owners used enslaved people to farm the land. Enslaved people planted the seeds and picked the plants. Some enslaved people cooked and cleaned for their owners.

When Harriet was five years old, her owners sent her to other plantations. She checked animal traps for one plantation. She cared for a baby at another plantation. When she was older, she worked in the fields.

## The United States, 1850



Harriet helped enslaved people escape.

## Harriet Escapes

Harriet helped people at a young age. When she was 13, she helped another enslaved person. His owner was trying to hurt him, and Harriet tried to stop him. The owner was shocked. He hit her very hard in the head, but this did not stop Harriet. She wanted to help herself and others.

In 1849, Harriet **escaped**. She left the plantation and walked north. It was a dangerous trip. Harriet had no money, and she was alone.

Harriet went to Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania was a *free state*. Free states did not allow slavery. There, Harriet found a job. She cooked and cleaned to earn money. She worked hard and saved her money. She had a plan.

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**escaped:** got away safely

## Harriet Helps Others

Harriet planned to **rescue** her family. In 1850, Harriet went back to Maryland. She found her family. She helped her parents and others in her family to escape.

Harriet also helped other enslaved people. For about ten years, she made many dangerous trips. She helped many enslaved people escape to the north. There, they could be free. How did Harriet help so many slaves escape? She did not do it alone.

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**rescue:** free someone or something from a bad place

# The Underground Railroad

Harriet joined a group of *abolitionists*. Abolitionists were people who fought to end slavery. She learned about the Underground Railroad. It was not a real railroad. There were no trains and no railroad tracks. The Underground Railroad was a secret group of safe houses. Safe houses were homes where enslaved people could rest and eat.



Harriet helped enslaved people escape using the Underground Railroad. The enslaved people stayed at the safe houses during the day. At night, they walked north through the woods. Some rode in boats, wagons, and on horses.

## Extend Language Compound Words

Compound words are two small words put together to make one new word.

under + ground = underground  
side + walk = sidewalk

Can you find one more compound word on this page?

# Danger

The trip was dangerous for Harriet and the enslaved people. If slave catchers caught enslaved people, they brought the people back to their owners. Often, the slave owners then hurt the enslaved people.

Harriet broke the law when she helped people escape. The government in the South wanted to catch her.

They offered a \$40,000 reward to any person who caught her. But no one ever caught Harriet.

Harriet carefully planned her trips. She left on Saturdays, when fewer slave catchers would look for her. She also turned south if anyone chased her. This **confused** the slave catchers. One time, Harriet hid behind a book. Slave catchers knew she could not read. They did not look for a woman reading a book.

## \$200 Reward!

Frank Mullen escaped from my plantation on Oct. 15. He is a tall man, 45 years old. I will pay you \$200 dollars if you bring him back to me.

Thomas Scott  
October 21, 1835

A reward poster

**confused:** made someone not sure what was going on



Frederick Douglass



John Brown



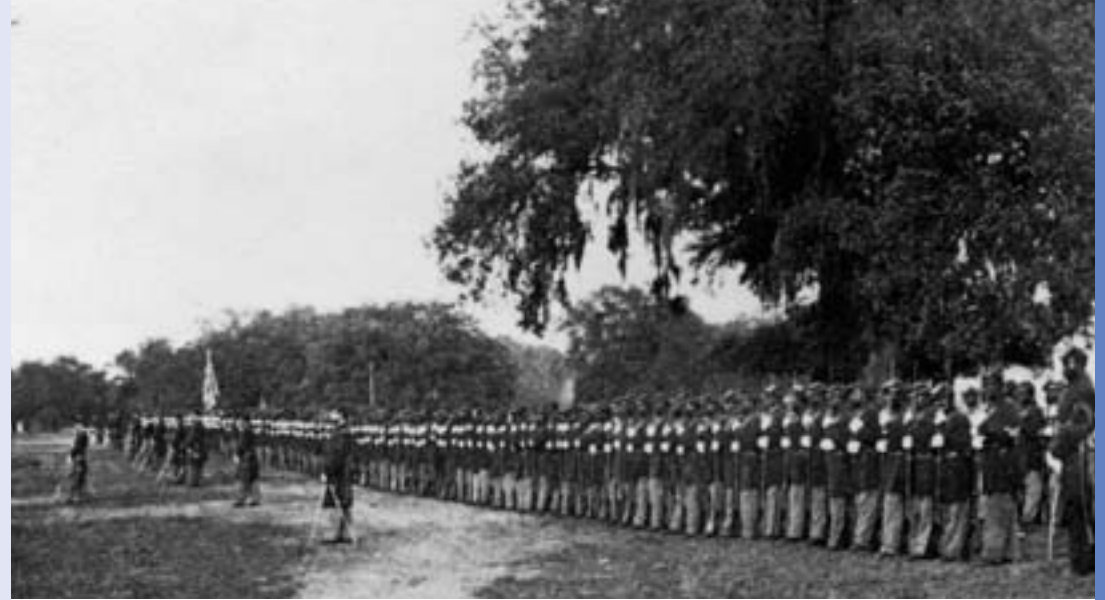
Harriet Tubman

Frederick Douglass, John Brown, and Harriet Tubman were very important abolitionists.

## *Harriet Tubman and the Abolitionists*

In Pennsylvania, Harriet became a leader. She went to meetings with others who wanted to stop slavery. She worked with other abolitionists, such as Frederick Douglass and John Brown.

Harriet worked with John Brown to raise money for an attack. John planned to attack a place that had guns in Harper's Ferry, Virginia. He wanted to give the guns to enslaved people. That way, they could fight back against the slave owners. John's plan did not work. He was put in jail.



Some African Americans fought for the Union in the Civil War.

## *Harriet and the Civil War*

The *Civil War* started in 1861. It was a war between states in the North and states in the South. States in the North did not want slavery. The states in the South wanted slavery. The Union army fought for the Northern states. The Confederate army fought for the Southern states.

Harriet was a **spy** during the war. She and other people who used to be enslaved watched Confederate camps. They sent letters about these camps to the Union army. In 1863, she helped the Union army to surprise a big Confederate camp.

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**spy:** person who watches one group or person and gives information to another group or person



Harriet Tubman in 1895

Harriet also worked as a nurse for the Union army. She made medicine to help soldiers who were very sick. Her medicine saved many lives.

The Civil War ended in 1865. In 1865, the United States passed a law that ended slavery. But Harriet did not stop working. Even though the enslaved people were free, they still needed help. They needed help finding jobs and homes.



Harriet Tubman's Home for the Aged

## *Harriet in New York*

After the Civil War, Harriet moved to New York. There, she helped more people. She raised money for *freedmen schools*. These schools taught reading and other subjects to people who used to be enslaved.

Then, in the late 1800s, Harriet opened The Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged. The home helped old and poor African Americans. Harriet also fought for women's right to vote. At this time, women could not vote. Harriet thought this was wrong.

In 1911, Harriet moved into the home she opened for the aged. She lived there until she died on March 10, 1913.



Harriet's picture was put on a postage stamp in 1995.

## Harriet Is Honored

After Harriet died, she was **honored** in many ways. Ships, parks, and streets were named after her. In 1995, the U.S. Postal Service made a stamp with her picture on it.

Harriet Tubman is an American hero. She rescued enslaved people. She fought for people's freedom and put herself in danger to help others. People will always remember Harriet's hard work.

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**honored:** celebrated, or shown respect

### Talk About It

1. What jobs did Harriet do during the Civil War?
2. Do you think that all slave owners wanted their escaped enslaved people returned? Why?

### Write About It

3. Think of a way to honor Harriet Tubman. On a separate sheet of paper, draw a picture. Write one or two sentences that tell about your picture.

### Extend Language

Multiple-meaning words are words that have more than one meaning.

Word	First Meaning	Second Meaning
watch	to look at	a small clock you wear on your arm
trip	to fall over something	a journey
light	does not weigh very much	something that helps you see in the dark

Read the underlined word in the sentence. Circle the sentence in which the word has the same meaning as the first sentence.

4. Will you show me how to draw a flower?
  - A. I went to the music show with my sister.
  - B. I want to show you my new cat.
5. Did you read the sign outside?
  - A. The sign said, "No parking."
  - B. Make sure you sign your name on your paper.