

# Underground Railroad

## Course 13 - Lesson

### Key Themes

- Perseverance
- Determination
- Activism

### Core Values

- Faith
- Liberty
- Community
- Life

### Learning Objectives

- Tell what the Underground Railroad is and explain its purpose
- Describe Harriet Tubman's role in the Underground Railroad
- Explain why it was very risky for Harriet Tubman to run away and help others run away too

# Underground Railroad - 3rd Grade

## Key Terms

- 01 **Harriet Tubman** — an abolitionist and social activist who helped rescue people from the bondage of slavery and further the rights of black Americans and women across America
- 02 **The Underground Railroad** — A network of people who helped freedom seekers on their journey and began at places with slavery and followed routes toward freedom
- 03 **Bondage** — Being trapped and having no power
- 04 **Fugitives** — A person who is running away
- 05 **Conductor** — Those who helped “freedom seekers” safely navigate the route to freedom
- 06 **Vigilance** — Keeping watch for danger
- 07 **Mason-Dixon Line** — The line between free states and slave states
- 08 **Fugitive Slave Act of 1850** — Required that escaped slaves be returned to their masters, even if they were in a free state

# Underground Railroad - 3rd Grade

# Introduction

## **ASK** Students

What is a cause that is important to you? Maybe it's helping the hungry by donating canned goods during a food drive at school. Maybe it's caring for God's creation by throwing your trash away after eating lunch on the soccer field. Or maybe it's supporting our American heroes by saying "Thank you!" to a police officer or member of the military when you see them in a store.  
(allow students to respond)

## **TELL** Students

In these examples, you are doing something for someone else. You are serving others and, in the process, making your community a healthier, cleaner, and happier place to live in. You are advancing a cause that you care about – which is what activists do. An activist is someone who tirelessly works for a particular cause. Harriet Tubman was an activist who worked to help slaves escape to freedom.

## **WATCH**

Learn More with Liberty:

**Episode 13 Cartoon, The Underground Railroad, and Fugitive Slave Act of 1850**

# Underground Railroad - 3rd Grade

# Lesson Guide

## TELL Students

Along her journey north to freedom, Harriet Tubman had help from those in the Underground Railroad. Despite its name, the Underground Railroad had nothing to do with a train or tracks. For many slaves, their only way out of bondage was to escape to places where slavery did not exist, such as northern states and Canada. Those who ran away from slavery were, at the time, called "fugitives" or "runaways," but now are more accurately called "freedom seekers." The Underground Railroad was a network of people who helped freedom seekers on their journey and began at places with slavery and followed routes toward freedom. Freedom seekers were guided by "conductors," protected by Vigilance Committees, who helped them avoid bounty hunters, and offered shelter and hiding at "stations," which included homes, churches, and schools.

With Harriet's immense courage and faith, she crossed the Mason-Dixon Line and arrived in Pennsylvania. She later recalled, "When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything; the sun came like gold through the trees, and over the fields, and I felt like I was in Heaven."

Harriet found work in Philadelphia, but she was always determined to rescue her family members from slavery, whom she missed dearly. As Harriet said, "I had crossed the line. I was free; but there was no one to welcome me to the land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land; and my home after all, was down in Maryland; because my father, my mother, my brothers, and sisters, and friends were there. But I was free, and they should be free." She knew she wanted to help.

# Underground Railroad - 3rd Grade

# Lesson Guide

---

## **TELL** Students

In 1850, after settling in Philadelphia, Harriet learned that her niece and two children were going to be sold to another slave master. This was a particularly dangerous time for Harriet and her fellow freedom fighters due to the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. The law strengthened the previous Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 and required that escaped slaves be returned to their masters, even if they were in a free state. After Harriet escaped, she tried to get John (her husband) to come with her to Pennsylvania, but he had remarried and refused to leave Maryland. (NOTE: Harriet later married a Civil War veteran after the war.)

## **KEY** Point

The time had come for Harriet to bring her family members to freedom, so she made the risky journey back to Maryland to help her family. Aided by her brother-in-law, Harriet successfully brought her niece and two children back to Philadelphia. After this first freedom fighter success, Harriet dedicated her life to helping other slaves escape to freedom.

# Underground Railroad - 3rd Grade Assessment

## Fill in the Blank

1

Harriet Tubman was an \_\_\_\_\_ who worked to help slaves escape to freedom.

2

Those who ran away from slavery were called \_\_\_\_\_. (formerly fugitives)

3

The \_\_\_\_\_ was a network of people who helped freedom seekers on their journey.

4

Harriet Tubman's immense courage and faith helped her cross the \_\_\_\_\_.

5

The \_\_\_\_\_ required that escaped slaves be returned to their masters..

6

Freedom seekers were guided by \_\_\_\_\_. They offered them shelter and safety.

7

Harriet Tubman made the risky journey to \_\_\_\_\_ to help free her family members from slavery.