

Underground Railroad

Course 13 - Lesson

Key Themes

- Perseverance
- Determination
- Activism

Core Values

- Faith
- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

- Tell a brief summary of Harriet Tubman's childhood and young adult life
- Identify why Harriet Tubman is remembered in American History
- Describe the impact Harriet Tubman had on the abolitionist movement and in the fight for women's rights

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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 **Suffrage** — The right to vote
- 04 **Abolitionist** — A person who supports the ending of slavery
- 05 **Conductor** — Those who helped “freedom seekers” safely navigate the route to freedom
- 06 **Mason-Dixon Line** — The line between free states and slave states

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Introduction + Review

ASK Students

What do you remember about Harriet Tubman? What are the big things she is famous for in American History? (**allow students to respond**)

TELL Students

Let's review some facts about Harriet Tubman before we talk about her legacy:

- Harriet Tubman was born around the early 1820s (her actual birthdate is unknown) in Dorchester County, Maryland
- Her birth name was Araminta Ross and her family called her "Minty"
- Araminta had eight brothers and sisters and was not born with her freedom but was born into slavery
- During her childhood, Araminta was loaned out to different masters to do both housework and to work in the fields
- When Aramanta was just around 12 years old, she was helping in a store and suffered a horrible injury to her skull
- In 1844 she married a free Black man, John Tubman, and changed her name to Harriet Tubman

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Review

- In September 1849, Harriet and her two brothers attempted to escape, but failed. A few months later, she escaped by herself and made it across the Mason-Dixon Line to Pennsylvania
- She became a respected and well-connected conductor and established her own Underground Railroad network helping slaves escape to freedom
- Her heroic reputation spread throughout the abolitionist community, earning her the nickname, "Moses"
- Harriet conducted her last rescue mission in November 1861 before going to work with the Union Army
- She left for South Carolina in 1862 to provide nursing care for black soldiers and recently freed slaves
- She helped rescue more than 700 slaves in June 1863 during an assault mission with Colonel James Montgomery along the Combahee River

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty:

Episode 13 Cartoon, Suffrage, and Harriet Tubman's Legacy

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Lesson Guide



TELL Students

In the late 1850s, Harriet Tubman's speeches at antislavery and women's rights conventions gave her a platform to tell her personal stories. She recounted the horrors of slavery, her escape, her efforts to rescue others, and expressed the need for others to continue to fight for freedom and equal rights for all people. Harriet fought for women's suffrage (which is the right for women to vote) as hard as she fought for the end of slavery. She toured parts of the northeast speaking on behalf of the women's suffrage movement and worked with noted suffrage leader Susan B. Anthony.

Harriet truly believed that all people deserve life and liberty. She continued to fight for what she believed in with determination and perseverance throughout her later years. Even though she couldn't read or write, she did not let that keep her from telling her story and encouraging others to do the same. She inspired many people by the way she lived her life: completely trusting God and dependent on Him to provide for her and her family.

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Lesson Guide



TELL Students

The head injury she suffered in her youth continued to plague her and she endured brain surgery to help relieve her symptoms. Her health continued to deteriorate and eventually forced her to move from her home in 1911. She established the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged and it was here, on March 10, 1913, that Harriet died surrounded by friends and family. She was buried at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn as a hero with military honors.

KEY Point

Today, Harriet Tubman is recognized as a strong, American heroine who fought for her moral beliefs. A strong Christian, Harriet believed all people deserved to live a life of freedom. Harriet's strength, courage, and faith allowed her to rescue people from the bondage of slavery and further the rights of black Americans and women across America.

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1. During what decade was Araminta Ross born into slavery?

- a. 1820s
- b. 1860s
- c. 1830s
- d. 1920s

2. When she was only 12 years, Araminta Ross suffered an injury to what part of her body?

- a. Her eyes
- b. Her skull
- c. Her lungs
- d. Her legs

3. When Araminta Ross got married in 1844, what did she change her name to?

- a. Minty Ross
- b. Araminta Ross
- c. Harry Truman
- d. Harriet Tubman

4. What state did Harriet Tubman escape to that is north of the Mason-Dixon Line?

- a. Maryland
- b. Pennsylvania
- c. New York
- d. South Carolina

5. What group did Harriet Tubman join and work for during the Civil War?

- a. The Union Army
- b. The Confederate Army
- c. The Mason-Dixon Line
- d. The Union Navy

6. Besides the ending of slavery, what is another issue Harriet Tubman was passionate about?

- a. Nursing
- b. Suffrage
- c. Scouting
- d. Spying

7. What type of facility did Harriet Tubman establish that she later had to move into?

- a. A home for the aged
- b. The Underground Railroad
- c. A neurology center
- d. A rescue home for fugitives

8. What is the term for someone who supports the ending of slavery?

- a. Conductor
- b. Activist
- c. Abolitionist
- d. Freedom Seeker

9. What term means “the right to vote?”

- a. Conductor
- b. Activist
- c. Slavery
- d. Suffrage

10. What is the name of the network of people helping freedom seekers that Harriet Tubman became a conductor for?

- a. The Mason-Dixon Line
- b. The Union Army
- c. The Underground Railroad
- d. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850

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11. What is the term for those who helped “freedom seekers” safely navigate the route to freedom?

- a. Conductors
- b. Runaways
- c. Fugitives
- d. Committees

12. Harriet said, “I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a _____.”

- a. Conductor
- b. Abolitionist
- c. Passenger
- d. Runaway

13. The line that separates northern (free) states from southern (slave) states is called the _____.

- a. Mason-Dixon Line
- b. Underground Railroad Line
- c. Dixon-Mason Line
- d. Freedom-Seeker Line

14. How did Harriet Tubman use her words to advocate for ending slavery and equal rights for all?

- a. Publishing newspaper articles
- b. Giving speeches
- c. Writing slaves' stories
- d. Keeping a journal

15. Due to her childhood injury, what procedure did Harriet Tubman have to undergo later in life to help alleviate her symptoms?

- a. Leg amputation
- b. Back surgery
- c. Brain surgery
- d. Heart transplant