

Historical Heroes: Harriet Tubman



Harriet Tubman was born enslaved in Maryland around 1820. She worked as a house servant and in the fields. All of that hard work made her very strong.

In 1849, she escaped to Pennsylvania, which was a free state. Slavery was not legal there. She used the Underground Railroad to help her get to Pennsylvania. The Underground Railroad wasn't really a railroad. It was a collection of people, homes, and hideouts to help enslaved people. It was a secret way to help them get to safety. Traveling on the Underground Railroad was dangerous.

Harriet Tubman wanted to go back to help other people. She returned home to help family members escape from slavery. She rescued her mother, her father, and one of her brothers. After that, she helped as many as 300 slaves escape to free states. She risked her own life to save others. In 1863, she led a raid that freed 750 enslaved people in South Carolina.

Harriet Tubman believed that all people should have equal rights. She gave speeches about her time as a female slave. She worked to help women get the same rights as men.

Directions: Answer the questions below. Use text evidence to support your answers.

1. Harriet Tubman helped enslaved people find their way to free states using the Underground Railroad.

2. Why did Harriet Tubman go to Pennsylvania?

Harriet Tubman went to Pennsylvania because it was a free state. Slavery was not legal there.

3. How did the Underground Railroad help Harriet Tubman and other enslaved people?

The Underground Railroad helped Harriet Tubman and other enslaved people by providing people, homes,

and hideouts to help enslaved people safely get to free states.

4. When did Harriet Tubman help free 750 enslaved people in South Carolina?

Harriet Tubman helped free 750 enslaved people in South Carolina in 1863.

5. How did Harriet Tubman show her bravery?

Harriet Tubman showed her bravery by going back down to help other enslaved people escape. She

traveled on the Underground Railroad many times, which was dangerous.