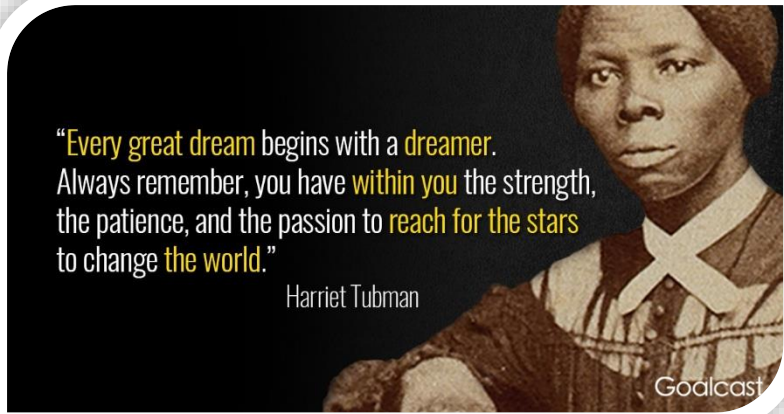




## HARRIET TUBMAN



## “They Should Be Free”

### As You Read

Think about why Harriet was a hero.

Harriet Tubman was born in 1822 in Maryland. She had a mother, a father, and eight brothers and sisters. Harriet and her whole family were **enslaved**. What does that mean?

From the 1600s to the 1800s, millions of Black people in our country were enslaved by white people. Enslaved people could be bought, sold, and forced to work all day. They weren't paid, and they could be hurt.

Harriet was forced to start working

2

when she was very young. When she was only 5 years old, she had to take care of her little brothers and sisters all by herself. She couldn't complain or she would be punished harshly.

When she was 27, she got horrible news. She was going to be sold. She was scared. What if she were sold to a person who hurt her? What if she were sent away from her family?

Harriet made a decision. She was going to escape to freedom.

### Harriet's Escape

Harriet ran away at night. The dark helped her hide, but it also hid anyone who might be looking for her.

People called slave catchers chased after enslaved people who ran away. The slave catchers used dogs to follow Harriet's scent. The dogs were terrifying, and so were the slave catchers. If they caught Harriet, they would hurt her, and they would drag her back to be enslaved again.

She knew she couldn't stop. She traveled at night and rested during the day. After many days of running and hiding, she made it to Pennsylvania. Slavery was **illegal** there. Harriet was free!

### Risking Her Life

Harriet was safe, but she didn't rest. Members of her family were still enslaved. "I was free, and they should be free," she said. She decided to go back to help them escape.

She worked with a group of White and Black people who wanted to end slavery. She traveled north. She then became a conductor for the Underground Railroad and helped slaves flee to freedom in the North (both to Northern US states and to Canada). The Underground Railroad was a secret system of people of all races who helped slaves escape to the North - it was not an actual railroad. Harriet Tubman made 19 dangerous rescue trips over 10 years,

Harriet was **clever**. She was good at coming up with plans. She wore **disguises** to trick the people looking for her. Sometimes she sang songs that were actually secret codes.

Harriet never got caught. She helped about 70 people make it to freedom. She **inspired** many others to escape on their own. She gave them hope that they could do it.





# Harriet Didn't Quit

In 1861, a big war started in our country. It was called the Civil War. During the war, Harriet worked as a spy and a nurse. In one battle, she rescued 750 enslaved people! When the war ended, slavery became illegal everywhere in our country.

After the war, Harriet didn't stop working. She opened up a home to take care of old and sick people.

Harriet died in 1913 when she was 91 years old. She lived a long time, and she spent her whole life helping other people.



↑  
Harriet

This is Harriet with some of her friends and family.

1) When was Harriet Tubman born ?

2) How many brothers and sisters did she have ?

3) What did she learn when she was 27 years old ?

4) What did she decide to do ?

5) What did slaves catchers use to find enslaved people ?

6) Where did Harriet find freedom and why ?

7) What did she decide to do with her family ?

8) What did she become to help slaves to get freedom ?

9) What was the Underground Railroad ?

10) How many trips did she make ?

11) How did she manage not to get caught ?

12) How many people did she help to be free ?

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UNDERGROUND	RAILROAD	CONDUCTORS	FREEDOM
RUNAWAY	HOUSE	PASSENGERS	SLAVERY