

Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman lived in a time when slavery was still practiced in parts of the United States. She escaped to her freedom and helped many others to do the same. Tubman dedicated her life to helping others.

Tubman was named Araminta Ross when she was born in Maryland, USA, around 1820. She, her eight brothers and sisters, and her parents were all slaves. They had to work long hours in the fields. These fields were owned by **slave** owners. As a girl, she was hit in the head with an iron weight that was thrown by one of these slave owners. As a result of this attack, she had headaches for the rest of her life.

In 1844, she married John Tubman, and she changed her name to Harriet Tubman. In 1849, she escaped to her freedom through what was called the *Underground Railroad*. This term was used to describe a system of paths and people who helped slaves escape to freedom. Tubman arrived in the state of Pennsylvania and found a job as a maid. She worked and saved money to help the rest of her family escape. Between 1850 and 1860, Tubman helped many people to escape slavery. Among this group were her parents, brothers, and close friends. She helped these people find new work.

When the United States Civil War began in 1861, Tubman continued to serve her country. She worked as a nurse and cared for those who were wounded in battle. She also worked as a spy and a scout in the South. In June of 1863, she became the first woman to lead a group of soldiers in an attack in South Carolina. They destroyed the Southern army's food, weapons, and supplies. They also freed more than 700 people from slavery.

After the war ended in 1865, Tubman moved to the state of New York. She spent the rest of her life there, helping others. She also gave speeches on the topic of suffrage, or the right of women to vote. Her husband, John, died in 1867. She married again in 1869. Tubman died in 1913 at age 91. Seven years after her death, the 19th Amendment was added to the United States Constitution. This amendment gave women the right to vote. Today, Tubman is remembered as a freedom fighter and great hero to all Americans.

Answer comprehension questions on page 126.



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