

Harriet Tubman

Unit Study



Subjects:

Reading, History, Following Directions,
Geography, Writing, Vocabulary



Teacher Instructions

Thank you for downloading our Harriet Tubman Unit Study! It was created to be used with the book: *Who Was Harriet Tubman?* You may incorporate other books about Harriet Tubman, as well. Here is what is included in the study:

- Pages 3-8:** **A Biography of Harriet Tubman:** Notetaking sheets with answer key.
- Page 9:** **Writing Prompt:** Look up a Harriet Tubman mural online and write about it.
- Page 10:** **Word Scramble:** Review vocabulary related to Ms. Tubman's life and work.
- Pages 11-14:** **Timeline of Harriet Tubman's Life:** Students may write on timeline or cut and glue events provided.
- Page 15-16:** **Harriet Tubman's Travels:** Practice following directions while learning more about Harriet Tubman's travels, the Civil War and American geography.
- Page 17:** **Compare and Contrast:** Harriet Tubman with a person of your choosing.

Also refer to our post: [Harriet Tubman FREE Unit Study](#) for:

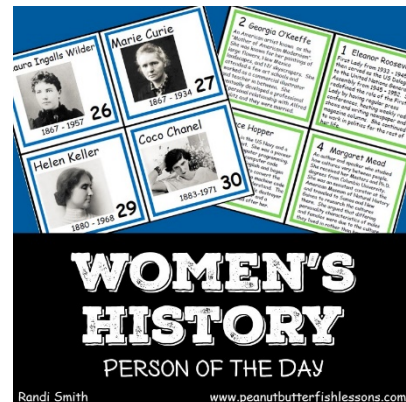
1. Videos about Harriet Tubman.
2. Resources about the Underground Railroad.
3. Videos of Slave Songs.
4. Links to resources to learn about the Civil War.

Credits

Frames and map by:



You May Also Be Interested In:



A Biography of Harriet Tubman

Birth: _____

Parents: _____

Childhood: _____

Working as a Slave: _____

Harriet's Escape: _____

Name: _____

A Biography of Harriet Tubman

Answer Key

Birth: Harriet Tubman's birthdate is unknown, but was likely in 1820 or 1821. She was born into slavery in Maryland.

Parents: Harriet's parents, Harriet and Ben, were born slaves. Harriet lived with her mother for several years on the plantation. She also had contact with her father and some siblings. Her mother nicknamed her Minty and told her stories from the Bible.

Childhood: Harriet was able to play like other children until age 6, but then she had to go to work. The children liked to swim and fish in the creeks.

Working as a Slave: Harriet was hired out as a weaver and then a caretaker for a baby, but was not very good at either job. So she went back to the plantation and worked in the fields. This was where she heard other slaves talking about escape. She once helped another slave escape by blocking the overseer and received a head injury. Harriet married a free man while she was a slave.

Harriet's Escape: In 1849, Harriet learned that slaves were going to be sold so she planned her escape. Her family did not want to come with her. She went to the home of a Quaker woman whom she had met earlier. The woman told her it was not safe to stay there, but told her what to do. She had to follow a long river and then a road to a woman's house in Delaware. After a few days of rest there, Harriet headed to Pennsylvania, which was a free state. She was now a free woman. She had used the Underground Railroad, which was a series of homes and shops where runaway slaves could find shelter. She had to watch out for slave hunters, who were everywhere.

Name: _____

Conductor for the Underground Railroad:

Harriet took a job cleaning and cooking at a hotel in Philadelphia. After work, Harriet visited the vigilance offices to learn where her family was. She decided to go back to Maryland to help her sister's family.

People with the vigilance committee helped come up with a plan. They sent a message to Harriet's brother-in-law who helped his family escape right before they were to be sold. Harriet met them at a house along the Underground Railroad and led them to Pennsylvania (freedom). It was her first time as a conductor along the Underground Railroad.

In 1850, a new law was passed called the Fugitive Slave Law. This meant that escaped slaves who made it to a free state could still be captured and sent back to their owner. Now you had to go all the way to Canada to truly be free.

Harriett set up a system where she helped many more slaves escape. In the winter, she would live in Canada. Twice a year she went south to bring more slaves back to Canada.

She gained lots of experience and started to become a legend. Slave hunters were on the look out for her because they could receive a big reward if they captured her.

In 1857, Harriet went back to get her parents, who were old and frail. This presented a new challenge. They made it to Canada and then she found them a house in Auburn, NY.

Harriet had several different jobs to earn the money needed to help support her parents in addition to her other activities. She became an excellent speaker. Eventually, her friends convinced her to stop going south as it was too dangerous.

Name: _____

Civil War :

The governor of Massachusetts asked Harriet to work for the Union army. First, she went to Port Royal in SC. Her job was to teach slaves who wanted to fight for the army to stop acting like slaves and act like free people. She became a nurse and took care of wounded slaves.

Later in the war, she became a scout, which is like being a spy. She became Commander of Intelligence Operations for the Union Army's Department of the South. She even helped lead a successful invasion in SC. Near the end of the war, Harriett worked in a hospital in Washington, D. C.

Life After the War: After the war, Harriet went back to her house in NY. She continued to help black people as they still faced many challenges. Harriet met a white woman, named Sarah Bradford, who wrote books about Harriet. The money it earned went to help her causes.

In 1869, Harriet married Nelson Davis. She continued to work hard to earn money to help people.

Harriet was asked to speak with famous women's rights workers.

She also realized her dream of opening up a home for people who had no place to go. She eventually turned it over to a church because she could not afford to keep it going.

Harriet kept going strong into her 90s, visiting with people and going about town. In 1913, she caught pneumonia and passed away. The town of Auburn placed a plaque about her in front of their courthouse. In 2016, the US Treasury Department announced that Harriet Tubman would replace Andrew Jackson on the twenty-dollar bill.

Name: _____

Caption a Mural

Look up the 'Take My Hand' mural of Harriet Tubman in Cambridge, Maryland. Then write a story to explain what is happening in that moment. You may write it as a non-fiction article or as a piece of historical fiction with dialogue.

Name: _____

Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below and review important words from Harriett Tubman's life. (Answers are on page 15.)

EAVLSS _ _ _ _ _

People who worked for other people and did not get paid. They were often treated badly.

TIPNALNATO _ _ _ _ _

A large property where the owner grows crops and the people who work the land live on the property. For about 250 years in the South, these people were slaves.

ROHNT RSAT _ _ _ _ _

Something in the sky escaping slaves followed so that they went in the correct direction.

TTAOSIIBLIN _ _ _ _ _

A person who believed slavery was wrong and should end.

GDORDURNEUN LDRROAAI _ _ _ _ _

A network of secret routes and safe houses to help slaves escape to freedom.

OOCSCRUTDN _ _ _ _ _

People who helped the slaves along the Underground Railroad. They were free-born blacks, white abolitionists, former slaves, and Native Americans.

VIFIEUGT VESAL WLA _ _ _ _ _

A law passed in 1850 that said all escaped slaves had to be returned to their masters and led many escaped slaves to try to make it to Canada so they could truly be free.

CLIVI RWA _ _ _ _ _

Started in 1861 when 11 Southern states seceded from the United States.

TOCSU _ _ _ _ _

Someone who acts like a spy during a war and maps out the area and observes what other armies may be doing.

Bonus:

NCONIETMAIAN MNPAAOROLTCI _ _ _ _ _

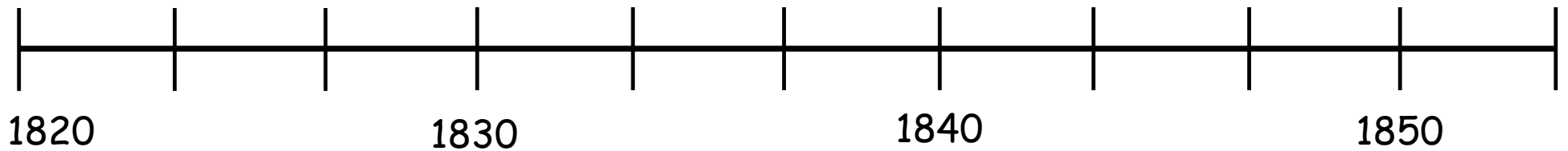
An executive order signed by President Lincoln freeing all slaves.

Events for the Timeline

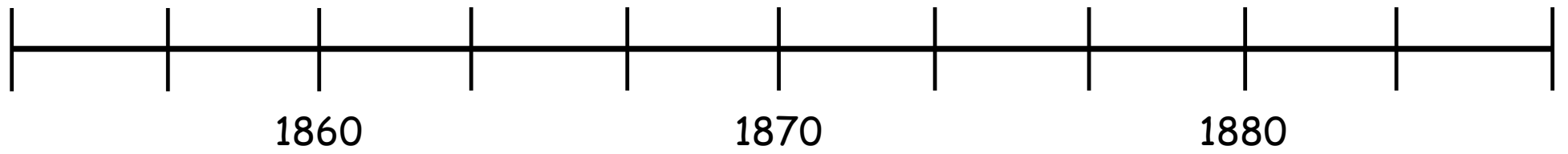
1821 Harriet Ross is born in Maryland.	Harriet Ross is born in Maryland.
1827 Harriet starts to work as a weaver.	Harriet starts to work as a weaver.
1834 Helps slave escape and is hit in the head.	Helps slave escape and is hit in the head.
1844 Harriet marries John Tubman.	Harriet marries John Tubman.
1849 Harriet escapes to freedom.	Harriet escapes to freedom.
1850 Fugitive Slave Law passed.	Fugitive Slave Law passed.
1857 Harriet helps her parents escape.	Harriet helps her parents escape.
1861 Civil War breaks out and Harriet begins working for the Union Army.	Civil War breaks out and Harriet begins working for the Union Army.
1863 Becomes a scout with the Union Army.	Becomes a scout with the Union Army.
1863 Helps lead the Combahee River Invasion.	Helps lead the Combahee River Invasion.
1863 President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves.	President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves.
1865 Civil War ends and slaves are finally freed.	Civil War ends and slaves are finally freed.
1869 Harriet's biography is published: <i>Scenes From the Life of Harriet Tubman</i> .	Harriet's biography is published: <i>Scenes From the Life of Harriet Tubman</i> .
1869 Harriet marries Nelson Davis.	Harriet marries Nelson Davis.
1888 Nelson Davis dies.	Nelson Davis dies.
1903 Harriet turns her house over to the AME Zion Church.	Harriet turns her house over to the AME Zion Church.
1913 Harriet dies.	Harriet dies.

Timeline of Harriet Tubman's Life

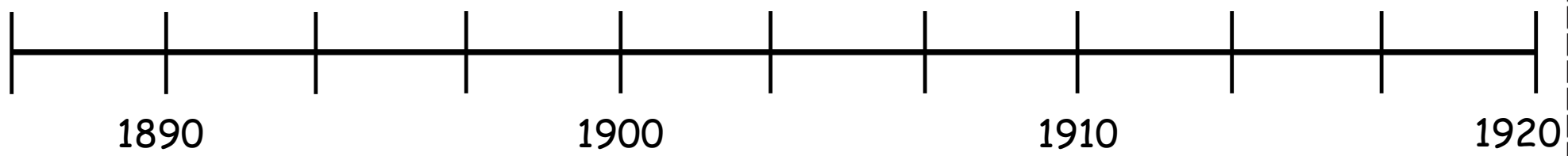
Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.



Timeline of Harriet Tubman's Life



Timeline of Harriet Tubman's Life



Harriet Tubman's Travels

Following Directions

1. Harriet Tubman was born in the state of Maryland. Color Maryland green.
2. She was born along the Chesapeake Bay, which is a body of water that almost cuts Maryland in two. Color the Chesapeake Bay blue.
3. When Ms. Tubman first escaped slavery, she went to live in Philadelphia. Put a yellow circle around Philadelphia.
4. After the Fugitive Slave Law was passed, Harriet had to help escaped slaves get to Canada. Draw a yellow arrow from Philadelphia to Canada.
5. She also helped settle people in New York and eventually lived there herself. Color NY blue.
6. In 1861, 11 states in the south seceded from the North. One reason is because they did not want to give up owning slaves. We will color the southern states gray. (Break up the following directions into separate steps if they are too long for your children.)
7. First, color South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia.
8. Next, color Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.
9. Then, color Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.
10. Finally, color Arkansas and Tennessee.
11. Ms. Tubman was sent to the coast of South Carolina to help during the Civil War. Trace the coast of SC in blue.
12. After the war was over, Harriett went back to NY where she helped take care of newly freed slaves for the rest of her life. Draw a house on or near NY.

Answers for the Word Scramble: **SLAVES, PLANTATION, NORTH STAR, UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, CONDUCTORS, FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW, CIVIL WAR, SCOUT;**
BONUS: EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Harriet Tubman's Travels

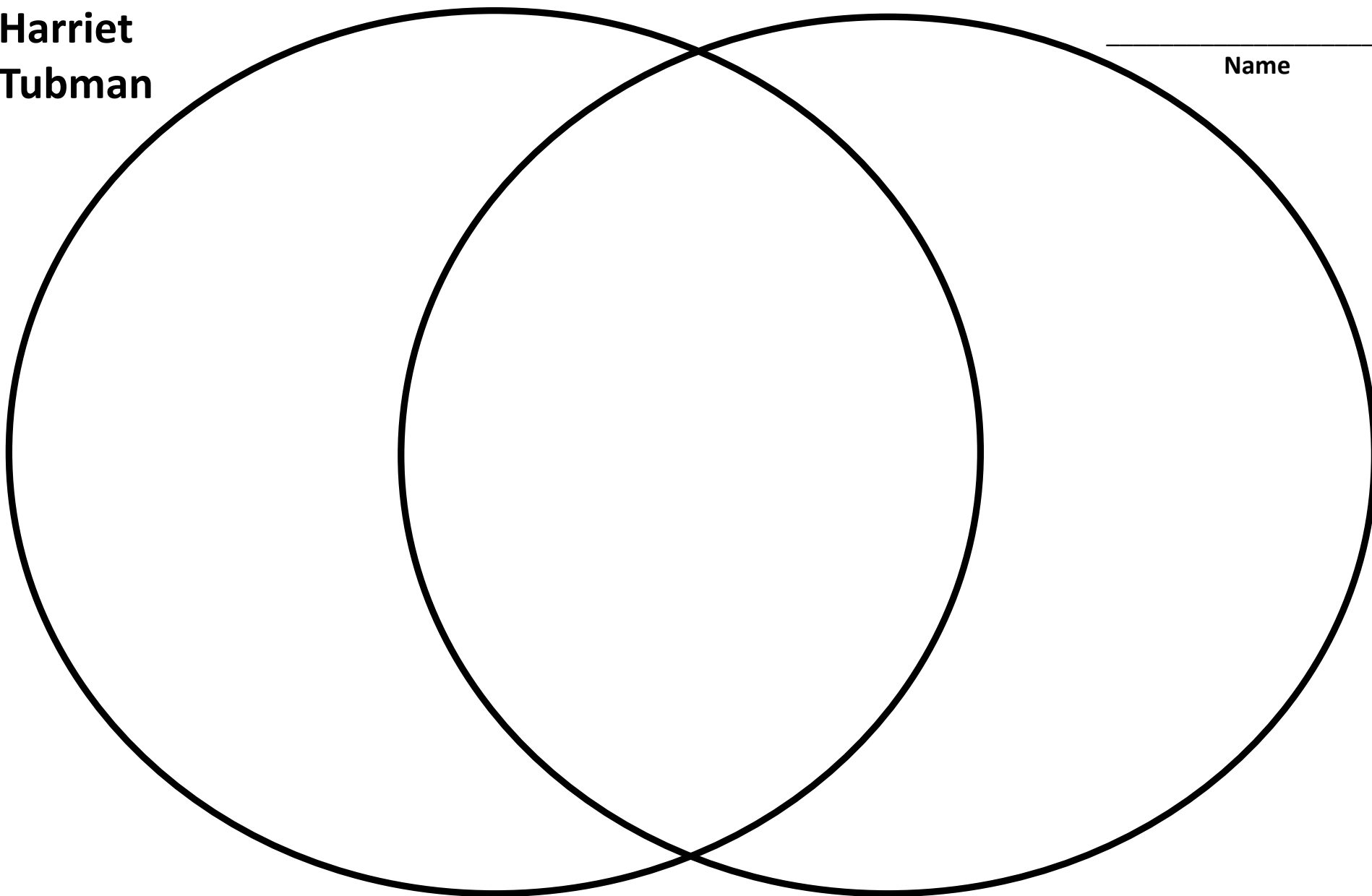
Following Directions



Compare Harriet Tubman to another person, such as yourself, plantation owners, other people who helped slaves, or another woman in history. Write the similarities in the middle where the two circles overlap. Write the differences between the people in the other parts of the circles.

**Harriet
Tubman**

Name



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Thank you, Randi Smith