



#8750

HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Grade Levels: 4-10

12 minutes

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA 1999

DESCRIPTION

Uses dramatic reenactment and drawings to relate the key events in the life of Harriet Tubman, America's foremost female abolitionist. Tubman helped organize the Underground Railroad, the south-to-north route taken by slaves traveling toward freedom. Briefly shows the main routes of this "Liberty Line."

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Historical Understanding

- ◆ Standard: Understands the historical perspective
 - Benchmark: Understands that specific individuals had a great impact on history

Subject Area: History

- ◆ Standard: Understands how democratic values came to be, and how they have been exemplified by people, events, and symbols
 - Benchmark: Understands how people over the last 200 years have continued to struggle to bring to all groups in American society the liberties and equality promised in the basic principles of American democracy (e.g., Sojourner Truth; Harriet Tubman; Frederick Douglass; W.E.B. DuBois; Booker T. Washington; Susan B. Anthony; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Rosa Parks; Cesar Chavez)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To identify the impact of Harriet Tubman on United States history.
2. To study Tubman's character and background.
3. To describe and define the Underground Railroad.

VOCABULARY

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|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. abolitionists | 7. courageous |
| 2. African | 8. daring |
| 3. bounty hunters | 9. disguised |
| 4. Canada | 10. freedom |
| 5. capture | 11. Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 |
| 6. Conductor | 12. fugitive slaves |



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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 13. Jamestown | 21. Philadelphia |
| 14. journey | 22. plantations |
| 15. Liberty Line | 23. prisoners |
| 16. maimed | 24. Protestants |
| 17. "Moses of her people" | 25. Quakers |
| 18. movement | 26. risk |
| 19. Negro spirituals | 27. survivors |
| 20. the North | 28. Underground Railroad |

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Describe Harriet Tubman. Describe her background. Where did she live? What kinds of things did she do?
2. In your opinion, what kind of person was Harriet Tubman?
3. What was the *Underground Railroad*? Where was it located? What was its purpose?
4. Describe how slaves communicated information about the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman.
5. What was the *Fugitive Slave Law of 1850*? How did it affect the abolitionists?
6. What time in history did Harriet Tubman live? Who were some other important historical figures of that time? What other historical events were taking place at that time?
7. If you had been living during Harriet's time, how would you have helped the abolitionists?

Applications and Activities

1. Assign groups of students, or individuals, to research other members of the Underground Railroad. After researching the individuals, the students can present their information to the class.
2. Have the students write about freedoms that they enjoy. Have them include their ideas of what life would be like without freedom.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- The Quest for Freedom: The Harriet Tubman Story #3407
- Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman? #2525



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid-safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **ADDY'S ESCAPE TO FREEDOM**

http://www.americangirl.com/collection/addy/addy_test_1.html

Try a daring escape from slavery by traveling on a virtual—and dangerous—journey. Choose your options and hope that you didn't make a mistake.

- **UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

<http://www.worldbook.com/fun/aajourny/html/bh040.html>

From the World Book site, read about the Underground Railroad. Also, click on other links to read about “From Africa to America,” “From Slavery to Freedom,” and other related topics.

- **HARRIET TUBMAN**

<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/tubman>

See a photograph and read a short biography of Harriet Tubman. Read about her “Spying for the Union,” “Running to Freedom,” and “Freeing the Slaves.”

- **THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad/j1.html>

From the National Geographic site, you are a slave on this virtual journey to possible freedom.

