

## Famous African Americans Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad



Harriet Tubman was known as “Moses.” She lived during a time when it was illegal to help slaves escape to freedom. Moses is an important figure in the Bible. He led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt. Tubman, in a similar way, led African Americans out of slavery in the American South. She became the most well-known leader of the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a system of secret **routes**<sup>1</sup> that helped slaves escape to free states.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave. She escaped slavery and made a promise to help others do the same. She made a total of 19 rescue trips back down south. She never lost one of the 300 slaves she saved. She was **skillful**<sup>2</sup> and brave. She even led her parents to freedom in 1857.

Harriet Tubman continued to help other African-American people. She was a nurse and a spy during the Civil War. In her later years, Tubman **established**<sup>3</sup> a house for elderly African Americans who needed help. She was a true blessing to the African-American community and to the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> **route:** path; road; way to get somewhere

<sup>2</sup> **skillful:** good at what she did

<sup>3</sup> **establish:** to bring into existence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How was Harriet Tubman most like Moses?

- A They are both important figures in the Bible.
- B They both saved people from slavery.
- C They are both famous Americans.
- D They both lived in Egypt.

2. What does the author describe in the passage?

- A slavery in the United States
- B how Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery
- C how Moses led the Jews out of Egypt
- D the life and works of Harriet Tubman

3. Harriet Tubman helped African Americans in more ways than just her role in the Underground Railroad. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A She never lost one of the 300 slaves she led to freedom.
- B She made a total of 19 rescue trips to the South.
- C She established a house to help elderly African Americans.
- D She became the most famous leader of the Underground Railroad.

4. Why is Tubman most likely described as brave?

- A She promised to help free slaves.
- B She made 19 rescue trips back down south.
- C She established a house for elderly African Americans who needed help.
- D She is compared to Moses, an important figure in the Bible.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A how Tubman helped slaves and other African Americans
- B why the Underground Railroad was never discovered by police
- C how Tubman trained to be a nurse in the Civil War
- D similarities and differences between Tubman and Moses from the Bible

6. Read the sentences: "He led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt. Tubman, in a **similar** way, led African Americans out of slavery in the American South."

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**similar**" mean?

- A mysterious
- B very different
- C legal
- D about the same

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Harriet Tubman wanted to continue helping African Americans, \_\_\_\_\_ she established a house for elderly African Americans who needed help.

- A because
- B so
- C earlier
- D instead

8. What was the Underground Railroad?

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9. Based on the passage, why did Harriet Tubman most likely want to help other slaves escape?

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10. Based on the passage, why was Harriet Tubman a “true blessing” to the African-American community and the United States?

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