

HARRIET TUBMAN Reading Comprehension

Harriet Tubman was born a slave. In the 1800s, slaves were African-American people who were forced to work. They were “owned” by their masters and had no rights. They could be bought and sold, and ripped away from their families forever. Harriet Tubman wanted a better life. She ran away from her “owners” on what came to be known as the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was not really underground and it was not really a railroad. It was a series of long paths through the woods that led to freedom for slaves in the northern United States. It was very dangerous and very long, but Harriet Tubman made it to freedom!

After Harriet became free, she helped her family members and other slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. Southern slave owners were very angry with Harriet and offered large rewards for anyone who could capture her. Harriet, however, was never captured. In all, she helped over 300 slaves to freedom in the North. Former slaves called her “Moses.” That is one reason why Harriet will be known forever as the Conductor of the Underground Railroad.

1.) Slaves...

- a.) were not forced to work.
- b.) had a lot of rights.
- c.) had no rights.
- d.) were never sold.

2.) Which of the following questions is NOT answered in the passage?

- a.) How old was Harriet when she ran away?
- b.) Did Harriet help other slaves to freedom?
- c.) What was the Underground Railroad?
- d.) Was Harriet Tubman a slave?

3.) Which of the following would probably NOT be a title for this passage?

- a.) Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
- b.) The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman
- c.) The Life of a Southern Slave Owner
- d.) Harriet Tubman: The Conductor

4.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) Harriet Tubman would never be captured.
- b.) Harriet Tubman ran away to get a better life.
- c.) Southern slave owners were angry with Harriet.
- d.) Harriet Tubman owned slaves.

5.) Which of the following best describes Harriet Tubman?

- a.) A woman who was captured trying to bring others to freedom.
- b.) A woman who helped as many as 300 slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.
- c.) A woman who was scared of trying to become free.
- d.) A woman who was against slavery.

6.) The Underground Railroad was...

- a.) in the woods.
- b.) a train.
- c.) underground.
- d.) in the air.

7.) How did Southern slave owners feel about Harriet Tubman?

- a.) They liked her.
- b.) They wanted her captured.
- c.) They didn't really care.
- d.) They thought she should be free.

8.) What did Harriet Tubman do after she became free?

- a.) She built the Underground Railroad.
- b.) She started helping other slaves to freedom.
- c.) She got a job.
- d.) She made people call her "Moses".