

Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad



**These are new words to practice.
Say each word 10 times.**

* bounty

* stations

* enormous

* conductor

* capture

* disguised

* Underground
Railroad

* deciding

Choose one new word to write.

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There was a bounty, or reward, on her head. The bounty was enormous. It was thousands of dollars. Anyone who could catch her would receive the bounty. The enormous bounty did not stop Harriet Tubman. Tubman did not care about how big the reward was for her capture. She would never let herself be captured.



Harriet Tubman

Tubman had been born a slave. She was born around 1820. She was born in the state of Maryland. At that time, slavery was allowed in some states. When one is a slave, one is not free. Someone else owns you. Tubman was treated very badly. She was whipped many times. Her body was covered in scars from old lash marks. Often, she was hungry. When she overheard that she was going to be sold and sent away from her family, she ran away.

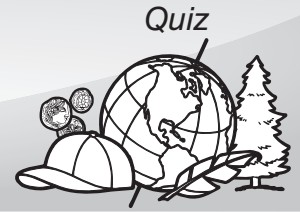
Tubman made it to freedom in 1849. She made it by using the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was not a real railroad. It was a way for runaway slaves to travel to freedom. It was a secret network.

Safe houses along the route were “stations.” The “conductors” were the people that led the slaves from station to station. The “passengers” were runaway slaves.

Tubman became a conductor on the Underground Railroad. Despite the risk, she led over 300 slaves to freedom. She had many close calls. One time she was sitting in a train station. She was disguised as an old woman. She could hear two men behind her. The two men were deciding if Tubman could be the person on the “Reward” poster they were looking at.

Was Tubman in disguise? Was she the old woman on the bench? The men could not decide. Slowly, Tubman pulled out a book. She opened it up and made it look as if she was reading. The men said, “That can’t be her. She’s reading. The poster says she can’t read.” The men left. The truth was that Tubman could not read. She told later how she could only hope that she was holding the book right side up!

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After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

- This story is mainly about
 - where Harriet Tubman grew up
 - the bounty on Harriet Tubman
 - who set up the Underground Railroad
 - a conductor on the Underground Railroad
- If someone is in disguise, they
 - are on a poster
 - are runaway slaves
 - are trying not to be captured
 - are dressed like someone they are not
- What answer is not true about the Underground Railroad?
 - It was a secret network.
 - Stations were safe houses.
 - Passengers were treated badly.
 - It was a way to travel to freedom.

- Think about how the word *bounty* relates to *reward*. What words relate in the same way?

bounty : reward

- whip : scar
 - risky : safe
 - enormous : big
 - station : railroad
- Why didn't the men think the old woman on the bench was Harriet Tubman?
 - She did not run away from them.
 - She looked as if she was reading.
 - She was sitting at a real train station.
 - She was on a bench by the "Reward" poster.

Answer Key



The Most Dangerous Job

- 1. d 4. a
- 2. d 5. b
- 3. c

Fly Off the Handle

- 1. c 4. d
- 2. b 5. c
- 3. a

True Stories of Vaqueros—the First Cowboys

- 1. d 4. c
- 2. a 5. c
- 3. b

And the Winner Is...

- 1. a 4. d
- 2. c 5. b
- 3. a

Sister Fox and Brother Coyote

- 1. a 4. b
- 2. d 5. a
- 3. b

Trouble with English

- 1. c 4. b
- 2. a 5. d
- 3. b

The Petrified Giant

- 1. b 4. d
- 2. a 5. c
- 3. b

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!

- 1. c 4. b
- 2. d 5. d
- 3. c

History Riddles

- 1. b 4. c
- 2. c 5. a
- 3. d

If a State Sued a State

- 1. b 4. c
- 2. c 5. a
- 3. d

What Was Red, and Why?

- 1. a 4. b
- 2. b 5. d
- 3. d

Old Shoe, New Word

- 1. b 4. c
- 2. c 5. d
- 3. a

The Wreck of the *Sea Venture*

- 1. b 4. a
- 2. c 5. d
- 3. d

House Whys

- 1. b 4. b
- 2. d 5. c
- 3. c

An Amazing Guide

- 1. a 4. a
- 2. c 5. d
- 3. c

Around the World

- 1. c 4. c
- 2. a 5. b
- 3. b

Checks and Balances

- 1. b 4. a
- 2. d 5. c
- 3. a

How an Almanac Helped Lincoln

- 1. c 4. a
- 2. a 5. c
- 3. d

Mountain Man

- 1. a 4. b
- 2. c 5. c
- 3. a

Dogs to the Rescue!

- 1. c 4. c
- 2. d 5. b
- 3. d

Why They Could Be Bigger

- 1. d 4. b
- 2. a 5. d
- 3. a

The Odd Nature of South America

- 1. c 4. a
- 2. b 5. d
- 3. b

How Hanging Up a Coat Made a Fortune

- 1. b 4. a
- 2. a 5. d
- 3. d

Puritan Rebel

- 1. a 4. b
- 2. d 5. a
- 3. b

Why a Nickel and Not Five Pennies?

- 1. d 4. a
- 2. a 5. b
- 3. c

The Escape

- 1. c 4. d
- 2. b 5. d
- 3. b

FEMA

- 1. c 4. d
- 2. d 5. a
- 3. b

Adventures in Africa

- 1. b 4. d
- 2. b 5. c
- 3. a

Gold Mountain!

- 1. d 4. c
- 2. d 5. a
- 3. a

An Amazing Ride

- 1. b 4. d
- 2. a 5. b
- 3. a

How a Small Man Did a Giant Thing

- 1. a 4. d
- 2. b 5. c
- 3. d

What Came First?

- 1. d 4. c
- 2. d 5. b
- 3. b

Citizen Test

- 1. d 4. c
- 2. d 5. c
- 3. b

Talking Leaves

- 1. c 4. b
- 2. c 5. a
- 3. b

About Presidents

- 1. d 4. a
- 2. a 5. c
- 3. c

Judged by the Outside

- 1. a 4. b
- 2. d 5. a
- 3. c

Benjamin Franklin and Hanging Together

- 1. c 4. a
- 2. a 5. b
- 3. b

Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad

- 1. d 4. c
- 2. d 5. b
- 3. c

Why Katrina?

- 1. b 4. a
- 2. a 5. d
- 3. c

Down the Mississippi

- 1. d 4. a
- 2. d 5. c
- 3. a

Helping Mother Pass the Test

- 1. d 4. a
- 2. b 5. c
- 3. b

The Peaceful Warrior

- 1. d 4. b
- 2. d 5. c
- 3. a

A Story About the Declaration of Independence

- 1. c 4. b
- 2. d 5. b
- 3. d

Code Talkers

- 1. c 4. d
- 2. b 5. c
- 3. b