



## 1 Facts about her early life

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery around 1822 in Maryland and endured severe hardship from a young age, including forced labor and a traumatic head injury that affected her for life. Born as Araminta Ross around. Her parents were Harriet Green and Ben Ross, both enslaved. She was one of nine children. Her grandmother, Modesty, was brought to the U.S. from Africa on a slave ship. From the age of five, Tubman was hired out to work as a nursemaid, and later performed field labor, cooking, and woodcutting. Around age 12, she tried to protect another enslaved person from punishment and was struck in the head by a heavy iron weight thrown by an overseer. This caused lifelong seizures, headaches, and visions, which she interpreted as spiritual experiences. In 1844, she married John Tubman, a free Black man. She later adopted her mother's name, becoming Harriet Tubman.

## 2 Escape from slavery/ Work on Underground Railroad

In 1849, fearing she would be sold, Harriet Tubman fled slavery. She initially escaped with her brothers, but they turned back. Tubman continued alone, traveling by night and using the North Star for guidance. She reached Philadelphia, a free city, after a perilous journey through Delaware and Pennsylvania, aided by a secret network of abolitionists and safe houses.

The Underground Railroad was a covert network of routes and safe houses used to help enslaved people escape to free states and Canada. Tubman became a "conductor", returning to the South at least 13 times over a decade to rescue others. She led 60–70 people directly, including her brothers, nieces, and nephews, and provided instructions that helped many more.

## 3 Civil War/ Fights for freedom and equality

Spy, scout, nurse, and cook: Tubman served the Union Army in multiple roles, using her knowledge of Southern terrain and escape routes to aid military operations. She was the first woman to lead an armed military raid during the war: the Combahee River Raid in South Carolina (1863), which freed over 750 enslaved people. Her work helped recruit Black soldiers and gather intelligence that was crucial to Union victories.

Tubman's activism extended beyond race: she believed in universal human rights, challenging both racial and gender inequality.

## 4 Quotes that represent her courage and determination

- "I had reasoned this out in my mind; there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other."  
— Her unwavering resolve to live free or die trying.
- "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world."  
— A reminder that courage begins with belief in oneself.
- "I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger."  
— A proud affirmation of her success and reliability as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.