

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #44 - Harriet Tubman



Today's lesson is about HARRIET TUBMAN. Harriet Tubman was born a slave but escaped slavery and became a famous abolitionist and social activist. After struggling to escape slavery herself, she helped other slaves to get to the North (and freedom) via the **Underground Railroad**. The Underground Railroad wasn't an actual railroad, but rather a network of homes where slaves could hideout safely, for you see these people were risking their lives to journey to freedom. Harriet Tubman also played a vital role during our country's Civil War. Through her running of

the [Underground Railroad](#), Harriet quickly learned about the South's geography and was able to provide valuable information about it to the Union Army. She even acted as a spy for the North. Later in her life, [Harriet Tubman](#) turned her efforts to the fight for women's equality, working alongside renowned suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.

Sticky Situation: Imagine that your sister, brother, or friend, wants a new bike. You want to help them get a new bike, but the only way to do that would be to give up your own bike or one of your favorite toys or books. Would you give up your favorite toy or book to help a friend? Why or why not? What do you think Harriet Tubman would do if she were faced with a similar situation?

Activity: Harriet Tubman mapped a specific course for her to take to lead fellow slaves to freedom via the *Underground Railroad*. She had to make this map without any modern technology, such as Google maps or Waze. Do you think you could remember a long route to get somewhere without the assistance of technology? Research what the *Underground Railroad* looked like during the time of Harriet Tubman. Then, on a poster, map out her course, noting the various stops she made along the way.

Interesting Facts: Here are some interesting facts about Harriet Tubman that you may not know:

- Harriet Tubman was born Araminta "Minty" Ross.
- Harriet never learned to read or write.
- In the late 1890s, Harriet had brain surgery, for which she chose not to use any medication to alleviate the pain. (Can you imagine that???)
- Harriet Tubman is scheduled to replace Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill.

I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say — I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger.

- Harriet Tubman, 1896