



Harriet Tubman Activity Bundle Integrated Reading and CRITICAL THOUGHT Activities

For Grades 4-8

8 INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES
Perfect for Interactive Notebooks
Perfect for Morning Work or Assessments

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LEARNING + FUN

ANSWERS

Name	Answers
Harriet Tubman RC (Advanced)	A, D, B, B, C, D, A, C, C, B
Harriet Tubman RC (Basic)	C, A, C, D, B, A, B, B
On the Underground Railroad RC	C, D, B, C, A, A, D
Slavery RC	C, C, B, D, B, D, A

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Southern Perspective

The issue of slavery became more and more contentious between northern states and southern states in the middle part of the 19th century, especially as the United States expanded westward and began to take in new territories and states. Slavery was important to the southern economy because of the large labor force required to pick and process cotton – the southern cash crop. The southern states scored a victory with the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. Introduced by Stephen A. Douglas, the bill called for the residents of the particular territory to choose for itself whether to allow slavery (otherwise known as *popular sovereignty*). Northern politicians such as Abraham Lincoln and abolitionists (those opposed to slavery) fought vigorously against the bill. With the election of President Lincoln in 1860, southern officials began to fear that Lincoln would repeal the bill and that the northern majority would threaten their way of life – and their economic interests. Southern states began to fear that Lincoln would emancipate slaves. The 1859 raid on the federal arsenal by John Brown, a radical abolitionist, perpetuated fears and led many to believe in a northern conspiracy. Shortly after Lincoln’s election, South Carolina officially seceded from the Union. Ten states would follow soon after and form the Confederate States of America.

Northern Perspective

Although the North was divided on their views of slavery, political officials in power such as Abraham Lincoln fought against the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Although many viewed slavery as immoral, which was one reason for its proposed abolishment, officials in the north were also worried that the extension of slavery into western states would give the southern states disproportional influence in such areas. When Abraham Lincoln was elected president, eleven states promptly seceded (broke away) from the Union. Lincoln deemed this unacceptable and declared war for the purposes of preserving the Union.

1. What caused the issue of slavery to become a big problem?

- A. Cotton
- B. The secession of the eleven Confederate states
- C. Westward expansion and the adoption of new states
- D. Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln

2. What was popular sovereignty?

- A. The right for the southern states to allow slavery
- B. The right of the president to abolish slavery
- C. The right of a state to decide on the issue of slavery
- D. The right of the southern states to secede from America

- 3. Why did southerners begin to believe that slavery was threatened?**
- A. Because popular sovereignty was allowed following the Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - B. Because Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860
 - C. Because abolitionists fought against passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - D. Because slavery was important to the southern economy
- 4. Northern politicians feared...**
- A. that Abraham Lincoln would declare war on the southern states.
 - B. that Abraham Lincoln would eventually allow slavery in America.
 - C. that slavery was immoral.
 - D. the extension of slavery into new territories would give the southern states too much influence.
- 5. Which of the following best describes northern attitudes toward slavery?**
- A. The north was united in their desire to end slavery
 - B. The north was divided on the issue of slavery
 - C. The north did not believe in slavery, but believed it should be allowed in the south
 - D. Politicians in the north believed in the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- 6. What was the effect of the Election of 1860?**
- A. The John Brown rebellion
 - B. It changed people's views on slavery in the north
 - C. The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - D. The secession of eleven states
- 7. Why was the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act a victory for the southern states?**
- A. Because it made of the possibility that new states and territories would allow slavery
 - B. Because it guaranteed that slavery would be allowed in new states and territories
 - C. Because it pulled the nation closer to the Civil War
 - D. Because it led to southerners believing in a northern conspiracy

Virtual History Teacher
Harriet Tubman Test

Name: _____

Instructions: You are playing the role of a history teacher who is grading the test below. See the questions and your “student’s” answers. Grade the quality of the answers on a scale of 1-4, “1” being a poor answer and “4” being a great answer. For each answer you grade, use your knowledge of Harriet Tubman, or, reference the mrnussbaum.com online biography, to add the missing pieces.

Question 1: Why did Harriet Tubman travel on Saturdays?	Score:
Student Answer: Harriet Tubman traveled on Saturdays because she thought she wouldn't get caught on the weekend.	
Your Response:	

Question 2: How did Harriet Tubman navigate through the woods on the Underground Railroad?	Score:
Student Answer: Harriet Tubman made sure to keep very quiet and she hid from hound dogs by jumping in the water.	
Your Response:	

Question 3: Why did Harriet Tubman have fainting spells?	Score:
Student Answer: The life of a slave was very difficult and she was often tired.	
Your Response:	

Answers:

Question 1: Why did Harriet Tubman travel on Saturdays?	Score:
Student Answer: Harriet Tubman traveled on Saturdays because she thought she wouldn't get caught on the weekend.	
<u>Your Response:</u> Harriet Tubman traveled on Saturdays because runaway notices in southern newspapers were printed on Monday. As a result, Tubman would have at least a full day to begin her escape before word of the escape would be in the newspaper.	

Question 2: How did Harriet Tubman navigate through the woods on the Underground Railroad?	Score:
Student Answer: Harriet Tubman made sure to keep very quiet and she hid from hound dogs by jumping in the water.	
<u>Your Response:</u> Not only did Tubman hide from hound dogs by finding a source of water to hide her scent, but she also used the north star to guide her. When it was cloudy, she noticed that moss grew on the north sides of trees, which helped her stay on course.	

Question 3: Why did Harriet Tubman have fainting spells?	Score:
Student Answer: The Life of a slave was very difficult and she was often tired.	
<u>Your Response:</u> Harriet Tubman suffered a severe injury when she was hit in the head with a metal weight as a young girl by her master.	

Harriet Tubman Quotes

Name _____

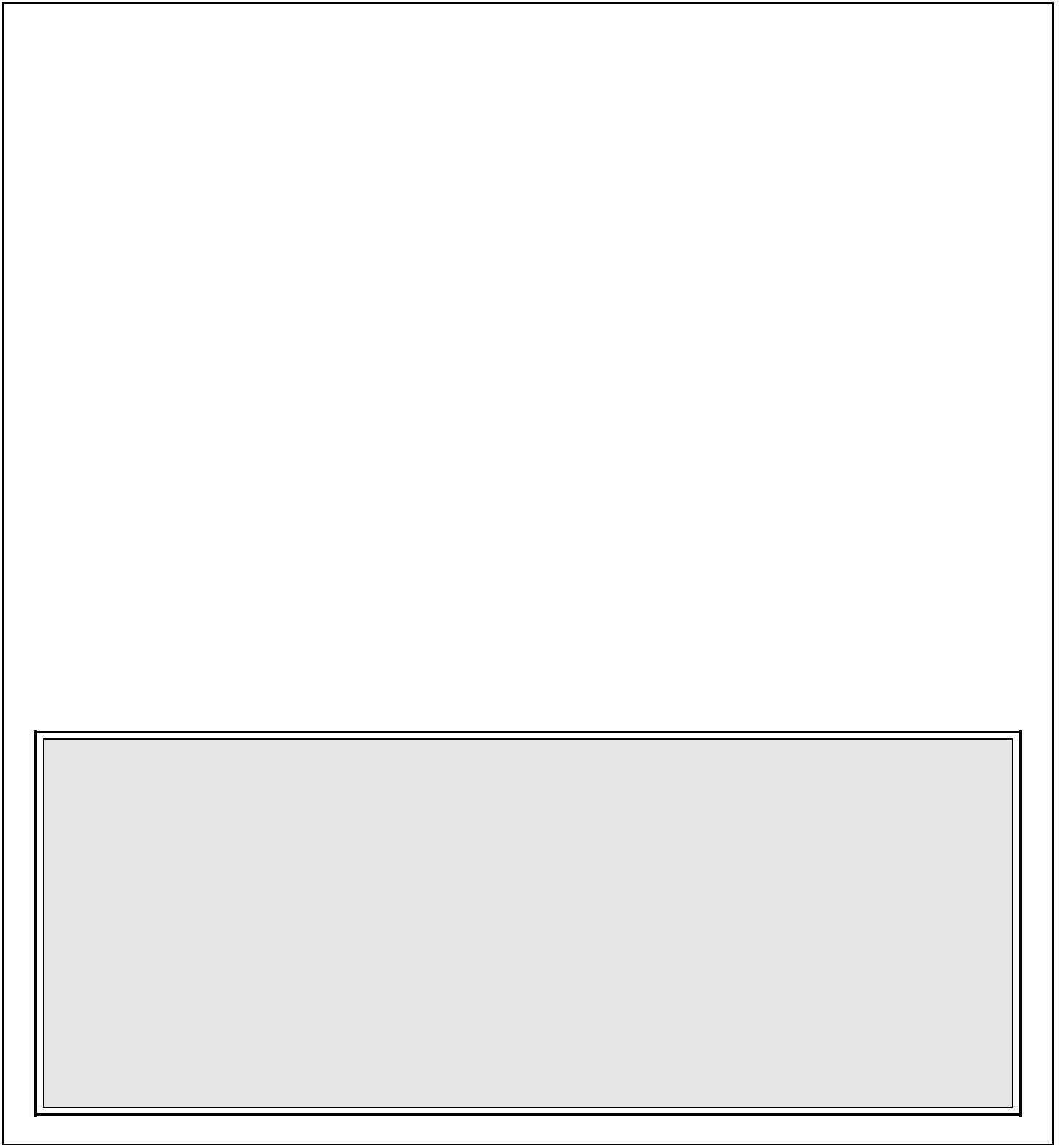
Read the Harriet Tubman quotes below. Choose one and create an inspirational portrait on the next page. Draw a colorful scene you think could accompany Tubman's quote and copy the quote neatly into the box.

I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything. The sun came up like gold through the trees, and I felt like I was in heaven.

In my dreams and visions, I seemed to see a line, and on the other side of that line were green fields, and lovely flowers, and beautiful white ladies, who stretched out their arms to me over the line, but I couldn't reach them no-how. I always fell before I got to the line.

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.

I grew up like a neglected weed - ignorant of liberty, having no experience of it.



HARRIET TUBMAN Reading Comprehension

Harriet Tubman was one of the most famous American women in history. She was born on March 10, 1821, in Dorchester County, Maryland, the daughter of slaves on a Maryland plantation. Her original name was Araminta Ross, and she was nicknamed "Minty." From an early age, she worked as a servant at the plantation house. As a teenager, she suffered a vicious head wound as she tried to protect a fellow slave from a beating. According to legend, the woman who was beating the other slave hurled a two-pound weight, hitting Harriet in the head. Her injury would haunt her for the remainder of her life, resulting in periodic fainting spells.

Tubman spent her early life as a slave. In 1844, she married a free black man named John Tubman, who would prove disloyal. Life as a slave was extremely difficult. They were forced to work in the merciless heat without rest. They were often beaten and forced to live in poor conditions. In the early and mid 1800s, slaves were often sold to Southern plantations where they would never have contact with their families again. Harriet was a particularly strong and powerful woman who could be sold for a hefty sum. Fearing that she was about to be sold, Harriet resolved to run away. Despite the brutal punishment that would be inflicted upon her if she was caught, Harriet took off in the middle of the night sometime in 1849 and headed north to freedom. She gained assistance along the way by abolitionist Quaker families who hung specially designed carpets or lights on the outside of their houses as a sign that runaway slaves were welcome and would receive help. She traveled by night through the dense woodlands of Maryland, guided north by the North Star and the moss that grew on the north side of the trees. She eventually made it to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a free city where she landed a job and saved money. After living in Philadelphia for two years, Harriet decided to return to Maryland, in the hopes of freeing her family members. She succeeded in guiding her sister and mother to freedom along the same path that she had taken. This path became known as the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a network of woodland paths scattered throughout parts of the South that led to freedom in the North. Harriet returned again and guided her father and brother to freedom.

Soon, Harriet became known as the "conductor" on the Underground Railroad and made more daring trips to the South to guide more slaves to their freedom. Harriet devised strategies to trick various parties that tried to capture her. If she was traveling with a baby, she would use herbal drugs to ensure it didn't cry. She made sure that she traveled on Saturdays as "runaway notices" in Southern newspapers could not be printed until Monday. Harriet's daring "forays" continued to elude slave hunters who were offered huge bounties for returning slaves to their owners. By 1856, a \$40,000 bounty was placed on her capture—dead or alive. She became a serious threat to Southern plantation owners who made large investments in their slaves. In one famous story, Harriet was close to being captured at a bus station. To avoid capture, she pulled out a book and pretended to read. Since nearly all slaves were illiterate, the hunters simply ignored her and continued their search.

By 1860, Tubman was said to have completed 19 successful journeys on the Underground Railroad, freeing as many as 300 slaves. She was never captured, nor were any of her "passengers." During the Civil War, she served as a cook, nurse, and spy for the Union Army. After the war, she settled in Troy, New York, where she would die in 1913.

1.) Which of the following was an EFFECT of Harriet's head injury?

- a.) She suffered from fainting spells.
- b.) She became a conductor on the Underground Railroad.
- c.) She married a free black man.
- d.) She was sold to another family.

2.) Which of the following best describes the Underground Railroad?

- a.) A network of trains and railroad tracks that led slaves to freedom in the North
- b.) A network of paths and forest trails that led slaves to freedom in the West
- c.) A network of paths and forest trails that led slaves to freedom in the South
- d.) A network of paths and forest trails that led slaves to freedom in the North.

3.) Which of the following did Harriet NOT take into consideration in her quest for freedom?

- a.) The position of the North Star
- b.) The disappointment of her owners when they learned she had runaway
- c.) Specially designed carpets on the outsides of houses friendly to runaway slaves
- d.) The tendency of moss to grow on the north side of trees

4.) Which of the following questions is answered in the last paragraph?

- a.) Was Harriet Tubman able to read or write?
- b.) How did Harriet Tubman contribute to the Union Army in the Civil War?
- c.) How did Harriet Tubman avoid capture on the Underground Railroad?
- d.) What happened to Harriet's husband?

5.) Who helped Harriet in her escape to freedom?

- a.) the people of Maryland
- b.) her husband
- c.) Quaker families
- d.) the police

6.) Harriet Tubman suffered a head injury while...

- a.) Falling.
- b.) lifting heavy weights.
- c.) working in the fields.
- d.) protecting a fellow slave.

7.) Harriet Tubman helped as many as _____ slaves to their freedom.

- a.) 300
- b.) 40,000
- c.) 40
- d.) 100

8.) Why did Harriet Tubman travel on Saturdays?

- a.) Because runaway notices would be printed on Sundays
- b.) Because she was too tired during the work week
- c.) To get a head start on the runaway notices that would appear in Monday newspapers
- d.) Because slave hunters never worked on Saturdays

9.) Why did Harriet Tubman ultimately run away from her owners?

- a.) She was very strong
- b.) To reunite with her husband
- c.) She was afraid she would be sold
- d.) To find better pay in the North

10.) What does the word "illiterate" mean in the following sentence?

Since nearly all slaves were illiterate, the hunters simply ignored her and continued their search.

- a.) captured
- b.) unable to read or write
- c.) slow
- d.) quiet

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".

Harriet Tubman Reading Comprehension – How Did She do it?

Name _____

Harriet Tubman was well known as the “conductor” of the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was neither underground nor a railroad; it was a system of trails that led from the slave states of Delaware and Maryland to the free state of Pennsylvania. Harriet Tubman knew the trails well and was said to have guided at least 60-70 slaves to freedom upon the trail. How did she do it?

The borders of Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, were dangerous places for slaves seeking their freedom. Slave catchers frequented the area, hoping to reap the rewards offered by slave owners for their runaways before or after they crossed the Mason-Dixon Line. Thus, Harriet Tubman, and others who helped slaves escaped to freedom were resourceful and elusive and were quick to learn who to trust and who not to trust.

Tubman, in contrast to popular thought, never relied on the “quilt system” to choose safe houses along the Underground Railroad. Rather, she relied on people she trusted to hide her and guide her in the right directions. She often relied on Quaker families living in Maryland who were willing to break Maryland law to hide her or transport her. To travel, she walked, rode horses or in wagons, sailed on boats, and rode actual trains. She often traveled in disguise or dressed up as a man or elderly person. She traveled on Saturdays as runaway notices in southern newspapers weren’t published until Monday. Tubman even employed acting techniques when necessary. In one particularly harrowing tale, she recognized one of her old masters on a train. The quick-thinking Tubman quickly grabbed a newspaper pretending to read it. Because she was thought to be illiterate, her master thought nothing of it. The newspaper turned out to be an extremely effective prop – even though she held it upside down! In addition, Tubman used songs to communicate danger or safety and had others write letters on her behalf. She even bribed people when necessary.

In the woods, Tubman used various methods to ensure she traveled in the correct direction. She learned to identify the directional flow of rivers and to follow those that flowed north. She often traveled by night and used the north star as a guide. On cloudy nights, she watched for moss that only grew on the north side of the trees. If danger arose, Tubman looked for a quick source of water to hide her scent from the hound dogs that accompanied the slave catchers.

- 1. Why is the word “conductor” in quotes in the first paragraph?**
 - A. To make sure the reader notices that Harriet was conductor of the Underground Railroad
 - B. To make sure that reader notices the word “conductor”
 - C. To make sure the reader knows that Harriet was not a real conductor
 - D. To make sure the reader knows how important her role was

- 2. According to the reader, which of the following could be a misnomer? A misnomer is something that is named inaccurately.**
 - A. The free state of Pennsylvania
 - B. Quilt System
 - C. Mason-Dixon Line
 - D. The Underground Railroad

- 3. Which of the words in the third paragraph means “hard to find?”**
 - A. resourceful
 - B. elusive
 - C. frequented
 - D. seeking

- 4. Why did Harriet Tubman travel on Saturday?**
 - A. Because the north star was clearest on Saturdays
 - B. Because she knew people would not expect slaves to escape on Saturday or Sunday
 - C. Because she knew she would have at least a full day before word of the slaves she was helping escape was published in the newspapers
 - D. Because she knew that slave catchers preferred to operate during the week rather than on weekends

- 5. Which of the following can be inferred about Maryland Quakers?**
 - A. Many were against the practice of slavery
 - B. Many were suspicious of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
 - C. Many were considered violent criminals in Maryland
 - D. The passage doesn’t give enough information about Quakers to enable the reader to make an inference

- 6. Which of the following IS NOT answered in the passage?**
 - A. Was Harriet Tubman ever captured?
 - B. How did Harriet Tubman elude the hound dogs that accompanied slave catchers?
 - C. To what state did Harriet Tubman hope to bring runaway slaves?
 - D. How did Harriet Tubman use songs?

- 7. Which of the following would be the best main idea for this passage?**
- A. Harriet Tubman will always be remembered as the Conductor of the Underground Railroad
 - B. Harriet Tubman's life was difficult and full of sadness
 - C. Harriet Tubman's adventures led to the escape of 70 slaves
 - D. Harriet Tubman's resourcefulness and instincts served her well as conductor of the Underground Railroad

Answers

Sentence	Does it belong in the paragraph with the above topic sentence?
They were forced to work in the merciless heat without rest and were often beaten and forced to live in poor conditions.	YES
Her injury would haunt her for the remainder of her life, resulting in periodic fainting spells.	NO
Life as a slave was extremely difficult.	YES
Fearing that she was about to be sold, Harriet resolved to run away.	YES
Furthermore, slaves were often sold to southern plantations where they would never have contact with their families again.	YES
During the Civil War, she served as a cook, nurse, and spy for the Union army.	NO

Tubman spent her early life as a slave. Life as a slave was extremely difficult. They were forced to work in the merciless heat without rest and were often beaten and forced to live in poor conditions. Furthermore, slaves were often sold to southern plantations where they would never have contact with their families again. Fearing that she was about to be sold, Harriet resolved to run away.

Fact or Fiction?

Name: _____

Below is a biography on Harriet Tubman. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

"Minty" is Injured

Harriet Tubman was one of the most famous women in American history. She was born on March 10, 1821, in Dorchester County, Maryland, the daughter of slaves on a Maryland plantation. Her original name was Araminta Ross and she was nicknamed "Minty." From an early age she worked as a servant at the plantation house. As a teenager, she suffered a vicious head wound as she tried to protect a fellow slave from a beating. According to legend, the woman who was beating the other slave hurled a two- pound weight, hitting Harriet in the head. Her injury would haunt her for the remainder of her life, resulting in periodic fainting spells.

A Path to Freedom

Tubman spent her early life as a slave. In 1844, she married a free Black man named John Tubman, who would prove disloyal. Life as a slave was extremely difficult. They were forced to work in the merciless heat without rest. They were often beaten and forced to live in poor conditions. In the early and mid 1800's, slaves were often sold to southern plantations where they would never have contact with their families again. Harriet was a particularly strong and powerful woman who could be sold for a hefty sum. Fearing that she was about to be sold, Harriet resolved to run away. Despite the brutal punishment that would be inflicted upon her if she was caught, Harriet took off in the middle of the night sometime in 1849 and headed north to freedom. She gained assistance along the way by abolitionist Quaker families who hung specially designed carpets or lights on the outside of their houses as a sign that runaway slaves were welcome and would receive help. She traveled by night through the dense woodlands of Maryland, guided north by the North Star and the moss that grew on the north side of the trees. She eventually made it to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a free city where she landed a job and saved money. After living in Philadelphia for two years, Harriet decided to return to Maryland, in the hopes of freeing her family members. She succeeded in guiding her sister and mother to freedom along the same path that she had taken. This path became known as the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a network of woodland paths scattered throughout parts of the south that led to freedom in the north. Harriet returned again and guided her father and brother to freedom.

"Wanted Dead or Alive"

Soon, Harriet became known as the "conductor" on the Underground Railroad and made more daring trips to the south to guide more slaves to their freedom. Harriet devised strategies to trick various parties that tried to capture her. If she was traveling with a baby, she would use herbal drugs to ensure it didn't cry. She made sure that she traveled on Saturdays as "runaway notices" in southern newspapers could not be printed until Monday. Harriet's daring "forays" continued to elude slave hunters who were offered huge bounties for returning slaves to their owners. By 1856, a \$40,000 bounty was placed on her capture - dead or alive. She became a serious threat to southern plantation owners who made large investments in their slaves. In one famous story, Harriet was close to being captured at a bus station. To avoid capture, she pulled out a book and pretended to read. Since nearly all slaves were illiterate, the hunters simply ignored her and continued their search.

Legacy

By 1860, at the onset of the Civil War, Tubman was said to have completed 19 successful journeys on the Underground Railroad, freeing as many as 300 slaves. She was never captured, nor were any of her "passengers." During the Civil War, she served as a cook, nurse, and spy for the Union army. After the war, she settled in Troy, New York, where she would die in 1913.

Event	From Earliest to Latest
Harriet Tubman gets married.	
The Civil War began	
Harriet gained freedom for the first time.	
Harriet guided her father to freedom.	
A \$40,000 bounty was placed on the capture or murder of Harriet Tubman.	
1900.	
Harriet was injured by a two-pound weight.	
1825.	1.

Answers:

Event	From Earliest to Latest
Harriet Tubman gets married.	3
The Civil War began	7
Harriet gained freedom for the first time.	4
Harriet guided her father to freedom.	5
A \$40,000 bounty was placed on the capture or murder of Harriet Tubman.	6
1900.	8
Harriet was injured by a two-pound weight.	2
1825.	1

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By 1860, Tubman was said to have completed 19 successful journeys on the Underground Railroad, freeing as many as 300 slaves. She was never captured, nor were any of her "passengers." During the Civil War, she served as a cook, nurse, and spy for the Union army. After the war, she settled in Troy, New York, where she would die in 1913.

	FACT	FICTION
Harriet Tubman was nicknamed "Araminta."		
Slaves in Maryland escaped to freedom by travelling north.		
The passage implies that most people of the Quaker faith were against slavery.		
Harriet used the North Star to guide her in the correct direction along the Underground Railroad.		
The Underground Railroad actually had nothing to do with trains.		
Harriet was "free" when she crossed from Pennsylvania into Maryland		
Harriet developed special strategies to help her and other slaves escape detection on the Underground Railroad.		
Harriet often traveled on Mondays as "runaway notices" were printed on weekends.		
Harriet was one of few slaves who could read and write.		
Harriet was believed to have led over 300 slaves to freedom.		
Ironically, Harriet moved back to Maryland after the Civil War. She died there in 1913.		

Answers:

	FACT	FICTION
Harriet Tubman was nicknamed "Araminta."		X
Slaves in Maryland escaped to freedom by travelling north.	X	
The passage implies that most people of the Quaker faith were against slavery.	X	
Harriet used the North Star to guide her in the correct direction along the Underground Railroad.	X	
The Underground Railroad actually had nothing to do with trains.	X	
Harriet was "free" when she crossed from Pennsylvania into Maryland		X
Harriet developed special strategies to help her and other slaves escape detection on the Underground Railroad.	X	
Harriet often traveled on Mondays as "runaway notices" were printed on weekends.		X
Harriet was one of few slaves who could read and write.		X
Harriet was believed to have led over 300 slaves to freedom.	X	
Ironically, Harriet moved back to Maryland after the Civil War. She died there in 1913.		X