

Name _____

Date _____



Harriet Tubman

Today we're going to talk about Harriet Tubman...in just a minute.

Harriet Tubman was born enslaved around 1820 in Maryland. She grew up taking care of her siblings and working in the fields of a plantation.

As a teenager, Tubman was defending another enslaved person from an angry overseer, and the overseer hit her in the head with a heavy weight. For the rest of her life, she suffered from headaches, seizures, and sleeplessness.

In 1849, after hearing she would be sold, Tubman decided to run away. She followed the North Star all the way to Pennsylvania. Though she found a job there, she returned south to help others escape, starting with her family. She eventually made 19 trips back to the South and rescued about 70 people, guiding them along the Underground Railroad—a network of secret routes used by abolitionists to help enslaved people escape to the North. People who led these groups, like Harriet, were called conductors.

Tubman later served as a nurse for the Union army in the Civil War. After the abolition of slavery, she continued to stand up for formerly enslaved people's rights until her death in 1913.

What character traits would you use to describe Harriet Tubman?