

the life of harriet tubman

The Life of Harriet Tubman: A Journey of Courage and Freedom

the life of harriet tubman is a story of incredible bravery, resilience, and unwavering determination. Born into slavery, Harriet Tubman rose to become one of the most iconic figures in American history, best known for her work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, her efforts as a Union spy during the Civil War, and her lifelong commitment to abolition and women's suffrage. Exploring her life reveals the remarkable journey of a woman who risked everything to help others find freedom.

Early Life and Background

Harriet Tubman was born around 1822 in Dorchester County, Maryland, under the name Araminta Ross. She was one of nine children born to enslaved parents on a plantation. Life as an enslaved child was brutal and unpredictable. Harriet experienced harsh physical abuse from a young age, including a severe head injury that would affect her health for the rest of her life. Despite these hardships, she developed a strong sense of faith and resilience that would guide her future actions.

Her early years were marked by grueling labor, including working in the fields and performing household chores. The trauma of witnessing the cruelty inflicted upon her family and fellow slaves deeply affected her. These experiences planted the seeds of her determination to escape bondage and fight for the freedom of others.

Escape and the Underground Railroad

One of the most defining chapters in the life of Harriet Tubman began when she escaped slavery herself in 1849. Tubman's escape was perilous; she traveled by night through forests and across rivers, relying on the help of abolitionists and the secret network known as the Underground Railroad. This network was a loosely organized system of safe houses and secret routes that helped enslaved people escape to free states and Canada.

Becoming a Conductor on the Underground Railroad

After gaining her freedom, Harriet Tubman didn't settle for safety. Instead, she made it her mission to return to Maryland multiple times to rescue her family and dozens of other enslaved people. Risking capture and harsh punishment, she navigated the dangerous routes with remarkable skill and bravery. Tubman's efforts earned her the nickname "Moses," symbolizing her role in leading her people out of bondage.

Her work as a conductor required careful planning, intelligence, and an intimate knowledge of geography. Tubman used various strategies to evade slave catchers, including traveling at night, using coded songs, and disguising her identity. Her success rate was extraordinary—she reportedly

never lost a single passenger on her missions.

The Impact of Tubman's Rescue Missions

The life of Harriet Tubman as a rescuer on the Underground Railroad was more than just a series of escapes; it was a powerful symbol of hope and resistance. Each successful mission inspired more enslaved people to seek freedom and encouraged abolitionists to intensify their efforts against slavery. Tubman's courage also challenged the social norms of the time, showing that a woman, especially a Black woman, could lead such dangerous and transformative work.

Harriet Tubman During the Civil War

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Harriet Tubman saw an opportunity to advance the cause of freedom on a larger scale. She volunteered her services to the Union Army, becoming a cook, nurse, and most notably, a spy and scout. Her knowledge of Southern terrain and her network of contacts proved invaluable to the Union forces.

Role as a Spy and Scout

Tubman's contributions went beyond traditional roles assigned to women during the war. She led armed expeditions into Confederate territory, gathering intelligence and guiding troops through unfamiliar and hostile environments. One of her most significant achievements was her involvement in the Combahee River Raid in 1863, which resulted in the liberation of over 700 enslaved people.

This daring raid exemplified her strategic mind and fearless leadership. Tubman's efforts directly weakened the Confederate war effort and demonstrated the critical role that African Americans played in their own liberation.

Medical Contributions

In addition to her military work, Harriet Tubman served as a nurse, tending to wounded soldiers and newly freed slaves. She used her knowledge of herbal remedies and nursing care to help those suffering from injuries and diseases. Tubman's compassionate care earned her respect and gratitude from many in the Union ranks.

Life After the War: Advocacy and Legacy

After the Civil War, the life of Harriet Tubman shifted towards advocacy and community building. She settled in Auburn, New York, where she continued to fight for the rights of African Americans and women. Tubman was a passionate supporter of women's suffrage, often speaking at events and collaborating with prominent activists like Susan B. Anthony.

Helping Freed Slaves and Building a Community

Harriet Tubman devoted much of her post-war life to helping newly freed African Americans establish stable lives. She assisted in the creation of schools and homes for freedmen and provided financial support to those in need. Tubman also worked tirelessly to secure pensions for her fellow veterans, highlighting the ongoing struggles faced by former slaves even after emancipation.

Recognition and Challenges

Despite her monumental contributions, Harriet Tubman faced significant challenges in gaining recognition and financial security during her lifetime. For many years, her efforts went largely unacknowledged by the government and mainstream society. However, she remained steadfast, living modestly and continuing her activism until her death in 1913.

Today, Harriet Tubman is celebrated as a national hero, with numerous monuments, museums, and educational programs dedicated to preserving her legacy. Her life story continues to inspire generations to fight for justice, equality, and human dignity.

Lessons from the Life of Harriet Tubman

The life of Harriet Tubman teaches us valuable lessons about courage, perseverance, and the power of individual action. Her unwavering commitment to freedom against overwhelming odds reminds us that change often requires great personal sacrifice. Tubman's story also highlights the importance of community and solidarity in the struggle for civil rights.

For anyone interested in history, social justice, or leadership, Harriet Tubman's life offers profound insights:

- **Resilience in adversity:** Even after severe injury and trauma, Tubman never gave up on her goals.
- **Strategic thinking:** Her ability to plan and execute complex rescue missions shows the importance of preparation and intelligence.
- **Empathy and service:** Tubman's dedication to caring for others, whether through nursing or advocacy, underscores the impact of compassion.
- **Breaking barriers:** As a Black woman leading in male-dominated spheres, she challenged societal expectations and paved the way for future generations.

Harriet Tubman's legacy is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the enduring quest for freedom. Her life continues to resonate because it speaks to universal themes of justice, courage, and hope that remain relevant today.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Harriet Tubman and why is she historically significant?

Harriet Tubman was an African American abolitionist, humanitarian, and armed scout for the U.S. Army during the Civil War. She is historically significant for her role as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, helping enslaved people escape to freedom.

How did Harriet Tubman escape slavery?

Harriet Tubman escaped slavery in 1849 by fleeing from Maryland to Philadelphia. She used the network of the Underground Railroad, a secret system of safe houses and routes, to find freedom.

What role did Harriet Tubman play in the Underground Railroad?

Harriet Tubman served as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, making approximately 13 missions to rescue around 70 enslaved people, including family and friends, guiding them to freedom in the North.

Did Harriet Tubman contribute to the Civil War effort?

Yes, during the Civil War, Harriet Tubman worked as a nurse, cook, and spy for the Union Army. She also led a raid at Combahee Ferry in South Carolina, which liberated over 700 enslaved people.

What challenges did Harriet Tubman face throughout her life?

Harriet Tubman faced significant challenges including severe physical abuse as a child, health problems like seizures, constant danger during her rescue missions, and racial and gender discrimination throughout her life.

How is Harriet Tubman remembered and honored today?

Harriet Tubman is remembered as a symbol of courage and freedom. She has been honored with monuments, inclusion on U.S. currency, and numerous schools and institutions named after her, highlighting her legacy in the fight against slavery and for civil rights.

Additional Resources

The Life of Harriet Tubman: A Journey of Courage and Liberation

the life of harriet tubman stands as a profound testament to resilience, bravery, and unwavering commitment to justice. Born into slavery in the early 1820s, Tubman emerged from the brutal confines of bondage to become one of the most iconic figures in American history. Her remarkable journey from enslaved woman to fearless conductor of the Underground Railroad, and later a spy and

advocate for civil rights, encapsulates a narrative that continues to inspire generations. This article delves into the multifaceted aspects of Harriet Tubman's life, exploring her early years, pivotal role in abolitionism, and enduring legacy, while weaving relevant historical contexts and analytical insights.

Early Life and Formative Experiences

Harriet Tubman was born Araminta Ross around 1822 in Dorchester County, Maryland. The precise date of her birth remains uncertain, a common circumstance among enslaved people due to the lack of official records. From a young age, Tubman was subjected to the harsh realities of slavery—forced labor, physical abuse, and familial separations. These early experiences imprinted on her a profound desire for freedom.

One of the most defining moments in her youth was a severe head injury sustained at the age of approximately 12, when an overseer threw a heavy metal weight intending to strike another enslaved person but hit Tubman instead. This injury led to lifelong health complications, including seizures and periods of unconsciousness, yet it did not deter her resolve. Scholars often highlight this incident as a pivotal point that shaped her indomitable spirit and tenacity.

Impact of Early Trauma on Tubman's Activism

The physical and emotional trauma endured during Tubman's formative years arguably fueled her later activism. Unlike many enslaved individuals who remained passive due to fear or survival strategies, Tubman's experience galvanized her into action. The resilience that characterized her subsequent endeavors can be traced back to this period, illustrating how personal adversity often intersects with broader social movements.

Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad

Perhaps the most celebrated chapter in the life of Harriet Tubman is her role as a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. Between 1849 and the onset of the Civil War, Tubman made an estimated 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, including family members, guiding them to freedom in the northern United States and Canada.

Operational Challenges and Strategies

Navigating the Underground Railroad was fraught with danger. Tubman utilized a combination of intimate knowledge of the terrain, covert signaling systems, and alliances with abolitionist allies to evade slave catchers and law enforcement. Her ability to orchestrate these missions under the constant threat of capture speaks volumes about her strategic acumen and courage.

- **Secrecy and Code:** Tubman employed coded language and songs to communicate safe routes and times.

- **Network of Allies:** Collaborations with free Black communities and white abolitionists provided critical support.
- **Physical Endurance:** Long treks through difficult terrain demanded exceptional stamina and survival skills.

This clandestine operation not only highlights Tubman's leadership but also underscores the collective effort of the Underground Railroad, a decentralized network that epitomized resistance against the institution of slavery.

Comparing Tubman's Impact to Other Abolitionists

While figures such as Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison were instrumental in abolitionist discourse, Tubman's hands-on approach distinguished her. Unlike orators and writers who influenced public opinion from a distance, Tubman physically risked her life repeatedly to liberate individuals. This direct action approach imbues her legacy with a unique dimension—one of tangible emancipation rather than solely ideological advocacy.

Harriet Tubman's Role During the Civil War

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Harriet Tubman expanded her contributions beyond the Underground Railroad. She served as a nurse, cook, scout, and spy for the Union Army, notably participating in the Combahee River Raid in 1863, which led to the liberation of over 700 enslaved people.

Military Contributions and Intelligence Work

Tubman's intelligence-gathering efforts were crucial in undermining Confederate operations in South Carolina. Her deep knowledge of the local geography and social networks provided the Union forces with strategic advantages. This role as a spy is often less emphasized in popular narratives but represents a significant aspect of her multifaceted activism.

Challenges Faced as a Black Woman in a Military Context

Operating within the Union military structure posed systemic challenges for Tubman. Despite her invaluable contributions, racial and gender discrimination limited her official recognition and compensation. Her experience reflects broader patterns of marginalization faced by Black women during the war, highlighting the intersectionality of race and gender in historical military contexts.

Post-War Life and Advocacy

Following the Civil War, Harriet Tubman continued her lifelong commitment to social justice. She settled in Auburn, New York, where she cared for her aging parents and other family members. More importantly, she became an active figure in the women's suffrage movement and worked tirelessly to secure rights for African Americans.

Social and Political Engagement

Tubman's post-war advocacy included collaboration with prominent suffragists such as Susan B. Anthony. However, her focus remained rooted in racial equality, often emphasizing that the fight for women's voting rights must be inclusive of Black women. This nuanced position reveals Tubman's awareness of the complex layers within social justice movements.

Economic Hardships and Legacy Building

Despite her heroic status, Tubman faced financial difficulties in her later years. The lack of adequate pensions or government support exemplifies the systemic neglect experienced by many African American veterans and activists of the era. Nevertheless, Tubman's legacy continued to grow posthumously, with numerous institutions, monuments, and educational programs dedicated to preserving her memory.

The Enduring Legacy of Harriet Tubman

The life of Harriet Tubman serves as a powerful symbol of freedom and resistance. Her story is integrated into American educational curricula and cultural discourse, reflecting the ongoing relevance of her contributions. Tubman's impact extends beyond historical commemoration; it informs contemporary discussions about civil rights, social justice, and the ongoing struggle against systemic oppression.

Representation in Media and Culture

Harriet Tubman has been portrayed in countless books, films, and art pieces, each interpretation offering different perspectives on her life. While some works emphasize her bravery and leadership, others explore the psychological and emotional toll of her experiences. This diversity of representation underscores the complexity of her character and the multifaceted nature of her legacy.

Lessons from Tubman's Life Applicable Today

Analyzing the life of Harriet Tubman provides insight into the power of individual agency within collective movements. Her strategic leadership, moral conviction, and willingness to face extraordinary risks demonstrate how personal courage can influence broader societal change. In an era where discussions about racial equity and social justice remain highly pertinent, Tubman's example continues to resonate.

Ultimately, Tubman's journey from enslavement to celebrated freedom fighter encapsulates a narrative of hope and determination that transcends time. As historical scholarship continues to uncover nuances in her story, Harriet Tubman remains an enduring figure whose life challenges us to confront injustice and aspire toward equity.

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the life of harriet tubman: The Life of Harriet Tubman Kathleen Connors, 2013-12-15 The true story of Harriet Tubman's rise from slavery to freedom is one of the most inspirational in US history. She didn't only free herself—she freed hundreds of others! Readers will be immersed in the amazing life of Harriet Tubman, as well as introductions to information included in the social studies curriculum, such as the Civil War and Underground Railroad. Historical images and accessible language allow readers to explore an era much different from their own and learn from a life of courage, dedication, and selflessness.

the life of harriet tubman: The Extraordinary Life Story of Harriet Tubman Sarah H. Bradford, 2024-01-15 In *The Extraordinary Life Story of Harriet Tubman*, Sarah H. Bradford meticulously chronicles the remarkable journey of one of America's most pivotal abolitionists. This biographical narrative is not merely a recounting of Tubman's life; it delves into the tumultuous era of slavery and the burgeoning abolitionist movement, rendered through Bradford's evocative and accessible prose. The text is steeped in historical context, offering both vivid storytelling and poignant insights into Tubman's indomitable spirit, her daring escapes, and her relentless commitment to liberty and social justice. Sarah H. Bradford, a prominent 19th-century writer and social activist, was inspired by her own experiences in a nation grappling with the morality of slavery. A contemporary of Tubman, Bradford's close association with abolitionist circles and her extensive research into Tubman's life positioned her uniquely to bring forth this compelling account. Her personal dedication to social reform is reflected in her empathetic portrayal of Tubman, highlighting not just her achievements but the challenges she faced as a Black woman in a prejudiced society. This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in American history, social justice, or the life of extraordinary individuals. Bradford's work not only serves as a biography but as a source of inspiration, encouraging readers to reflect on the themes of courage, resilience, and the fight against injustice that remain relevant today.

the life of harriet tubman: Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman Sarah Hopkins Bradford, 1869 *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*: By SARAH H. BRADFORD. [Special Illustrated Edition]

the life of harriet tubman: Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman Sarah H. Bradford, 2019-10-15 *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* is a biography of Harriet Tubman, written by Sarah Hopkins Bradford in 1869, four years after the end of the Civil War. The book describes life and adventures of Tubman, an escaped slave, who had helped many escaped slaves travel to the

northern States and Canada before the Civil War, using the Underground Railroad. Bradford wrote this book, using extensive interviews with Tubman, to raise funds for Tubman's support. Harriet Tubman, born Araminta Ross, (c. 1822 - 1913) was an American abolitionist, humanitarian, and an armed scout and spy for the United States Army during the American Civil War. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made some thirteen missions to rescue approximately seventy enslaved people, family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. Sarah Hopkins Bradford (1818 - 1912) was an American writer and historian, best known today for her two pioneering biographical books on Harriet Tubman. Bradford was one of the first Caucasian writers to deal with African-American topics, and her work attracted worldwide fame, selling very well. Contents: Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman Some Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman Extracts From a Letter Written by Mr. Sanborn, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of State Charities Statements Made by Martin I. Townsend, Esq., of Troy, Who Was Counsel for the Fugitive, Charles Nalle Essay on Woman-whipping Harriet, The Moses of Her People

the life of harriet tubman: *The Life of Harriet Tubman* Emma Lynch, 2006 A biography of the woman who escaped life as a slave and then rescued other slaves as a conductor in the Underground Railroad.

the life of harriet tubman: Harriet Tubman Jean M. Humez, 2006-02-06 Harriet Tubman's name is known world-wide and her exploits as a self-liberated Underground Railroad heroine are celebrated in children's literature, film, and history books, yet no major biography of Tubman has appeared since 1943. Jean M. Humez's comprehensive Harriet Tubman is both an important biographical overview based on extensive new research and a complete collection of the stories Tubman told about her life—a virtual autobiography culled by Humez from rare early publications and manuscript sources. This book will become a landmark resource for scholars, historians, and general readers interested in slavery, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and African American women. Born in slavery in Maryland in or around 1820, Tubman drew upon deep spiritual resources and covert antislavery networks when she escaped to the north in 1849. Vowing to liberate her entire family, she made repeated trips south during the 1850s and successfully guided dozens of fugitives to freedom. During the Civil War she was recruited to act as spy and scout with the Union Army. After the war she settled in Auburn, New York, where she worked to support an extended family and in her later years founded a home for the indigent aged. Celebrated by her primarily white antislavery associates in a variety of private and public documents from the 1850s through the 1870s, she was rediscovered as a race heroine by woman suffragists and the African American women's club movement in the early twentieth century. Her story was used as a key symbolic resource in education, institutional fundraising, and debates about the meaning of race throughout the twentieth century. Humez includes an extended discussion of Tubman's work as a public performer of her own life history during the nearly sixty years she lived in the north. Drawing upon historiographical and literary discussion of the complex hybrid authorship of slave narrative literature, Humez analyzes the interactive dynamic between Tubman and her interviewers. Humez illustrates how Tubman, though unable to write, made major unrecognized contributions to the shaping of her own heroic myth by early biographers like Sarah Bradford. Selections of key documents illustrate how Tubman appeared to her contemporaries, and a comprehensive list of primary sources represents an important resource for scholars.

the life of harriet tubman: Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman (Complete Edition) Sarah H. Bradford, 2018-03-21 This eBook edition of *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* has been formatted to the highest digital standards and adjusted for readability on all devices. *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* is a biography of Harriet Tubman, written by Sarah Hopkins Bradford in 1869, four years after the end of the Civil War. The book describes life and adventures of Tubman, an escaped slave, who had helped many escaped slaves travel to the northern States and Canada before the Civil War, using the Underground Railroad. Bradford wrote this book, using extensive interviews with Tubman, to raise funds for Tubman's support. Harriet Tubman, born Araminta Ross,

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the life of harriet tubman: *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* Sarah H. Bradford, 2015-11-21 Harriet Tubman is one of the most famous women in American history, and from an early age every American learns of her contributions to abolition and the Underground Railroad. The woman who became known as the Moses of her people personally led more than 13 expeditions to free slaves in the South, and she was so integral in helping escaped slaves achieve freedom that her name is practically synonymous with the Underground Railroad today. If anything, the central role she played in the Underground Railroad has become so ingrained among subsequent generations that Tubman's life has been shrouded in legend, and other important aspects have been overlooked. In order to fully appreciate and understand both Harriet Tubman's life and the important role she played in the abolitionist movement, it is necessary to examine the circumstances in which she was raised and what events drove her to the path she chose. Anthropologist Douglas Armstrong notes [s]o little information about Tubman has been based on fact and so much based on myth and created history that it has only been recently that historians have come to the point where we can recognize her true contributions. In fact, Tubman's entire life consisted of struggles and persistence, whether she was fighting on behalf of slaves, the Union army during the Civil War, or women's rights. After managing to escape the severe beatings and humiliation of slavery herself, she put her life on the line over and over again to help others, and she could proudly boast, 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. But that was only part of her involvement with abolition; Tubman was well-acquainted with other famous abolitionists of her time, including Frederick Douglass and John Brown, and she threw herself into efforts to further the cause of abolition in various ways. Her life and work were publicized nearly 50 years before her death by Franklin Sanborn, who worked as an editor in an abolitionist newspaper and detailed the work of the Underground Railroad in the Boston Commonwealth in 1863.

the life of harriet tubman: *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* Sarah H. Bradford, 2024-01-18 In *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*, Sarah H. Bradford offers an intimate portrayal of one of America's most venerated abolitionists. This biography combines vivid narrative and careful historical documentation, utilizing a straightforward literary style that emphasizes Tubman's courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to freedom. Bradford artfully weaves together anecdotes and testimonies, presenting not just Tubman's remarkable journeys via the Underground Railroad but also her profound impact on the community she served. Written during a time when the Civil War was reshaping the national consciousness, Bradford's work contributes significantly to the growing discourse on racial equality and women's rights in 19th-century America. Sarah H. Bradford, a prominent advocate for social reform, was particularly inspired by Tubman's legacy. As a contemporary of Tubman, Bradford understood the significance of documenting her life. Her own experiences in the abolitionist movement and close associations with various figures in activism enriched her perspective and fueled her passion for social justice, ultimately culminating in this definitive biography. *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the nuances of the abolitionist movement and the life of this extraordinary woman. Bradford's engaging narrative not only illuminates Tubman's pivotal role in history but also serves

as an inspiration to contemporary discussions on freedom and equality.

the life of harriet tubman: The Life of Harriet Tubman Anne Schraff, 2014-07-01 Describes the life of the American icon, including her early life as a slave, how she freed about three hundred slaves as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and her work in the Civil War as a nurse and scout.

the life of harriet tubman: Harriet Tubman Catherine Clinton, 2004 With impeccable scholarship that draws on newly available sources and research into the daily lives of slaves, Harriet Tubman is an enduring work on one of the most important figures in American history.

the life of harriet tubman: Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman (Complete Edition) Sarah H. Bradford, 2023-11-29 In *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman (Complete Edition)*, Sarah H. Bradford crafts a compelling and vivid narrative that chronicles the extraordinary life of Harriet Tubman, an iconic figure in American history. Through a series of rich vignettes, Bradford employs a blend of biographical detail and emotional depth, capturing Tubman's harrowing journeys as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, her bravery in the face of adversity, and her unwavering commitment to the abolitionist cause. The literary style, marked by its earnest and accessible prose, situates Tubman within the broader context of 19th-century social activism, shedding light on the interplay between personal courage and collective struggle. Bradford, a contemporary of Tubman, was deeply influenced by the abolitionist movement and was a vocal advocate for women's rights. Her personal connection to Tubman, coupled with her extensive research and interviews, lends authenticity to the narrative. This firsthand perspective allows Bradford to portray Tubman's resilience and leadership in a manner that goes beyond mere biography, framing her as a symbol of hope and tenacity for generations to come. For readers interested in American history, social justice, and the lives of trailblazing figures, Bradford's *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* is an essential read. It not only illuminates the formidable spirit of Tubman but also serves as a reminder of the enduring impact of her legacy. This complete edition is a must-have for those seeking to understand the complexities of freedom and the human spirit.

the life of harriet tubman: Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman (1869) Sarah H. Bradford, 2014-08-07 This Is A New Release Of The Original 1869 Edition.

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the life of harriet tubman: American Legends Charles River Charles River Editors, 2013-09-17

*Includes pictures of Harriet and important people and places in her life. *Includes contemporaneous accounts of Harriet, the Underground Railroad, and her Civil War service.

*Examines the legends and mythology of Harriet's participation in the Underground Railroad, John Brown's Raid at Harpers Ferry, the Civil War, and the women's suffrage movement. *Includes a Timeline and Bibliography for further reading. Excepting John Brown, of sacred memory, I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than you have. Much that you have done would seem improbable to those who do not know you as I know you. - Frederick Douglass to Harriet Tubman A lot of ink has been spilled covering the lives of history's most influential figures, but how much of the forest is lost for the trees? In Charles River Editors' American Legends series, readers can get caught up to speed on the lives of America's most important men and women in the time it takes to finish a commute, while learning interesting facts long forgotten or never known. Harriet Tubman is one of the most famous women in American history, and from an early age every American learns of her contributions to abolition and the Underground Railroad. The woman who became known as the Moses of her people personally led more than 13 expeditions to free slaves in the South, and she was so integral in helping escaped slaves achieve freedom that her name is practically synonymous with the Underground Railroad today. If anything, the central role she played in the Underground Railroad has become so ingrained among subsequent generations that Tubman's life has been shrouded in legend, and other important aspects have been overlooked. In order to fully appreciate and understand both Harriet Tubman's life and the important role she played in the abolitionist movement, it is necessary to examine the circumstances in which she was raised and what events drove her to the path she chose.

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the life of harriet tubman: Harriet Tubman Randy T. Gosda, 2002-09-01 Surveys the life of Harriet Tubman, who spent her childhood in slavery and later worked to help other slaves escape north to freedom through the Underground Railroad.

the life of harriet tubman: Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman Harriet Tubman, Sarah Hopkins Bradford, 1870 This autobiographical volume on the life of Harriet Tubman is a first edition that was initially published in 1868 with the help of Sarah H. Bradford, a white schoolteacher from Auburn, Massachusetts. Araminta Harriet Ross Tubman Davis (1822-1913), best known as Harriet Tubman, was a fugitive slave whose work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad made her a legend. Born in Dorchester County, Maryland, Tubman escaped from slavery in 1849 and supported herself by working in Philadelphia hotels before relocating in Canada and, later, New York. Tubman first returned to Maryland in 1850, when she helped a niece escape from Baltimore. Over the next ten years she frequently risked her life to liberate family members and other slaves in the area. During the Civil War, Tubman worked as a nurse and a spy for the Union army in South Carolina, where she was known as General Tubman. After the war, Tubman established a retirement home for

indigent African Americans and spoke at women's suffrage meetings. This remarkable account of her life underscores just why Tubman remains such a powerful example of selflessness in the face of danger. She regularly risked her life for other people, most of whom she did not even know.

the life of harriet tubman: *Freedom Train* Dorothy Sterling, 1954 Story of one of the most famous conductors in the Underground Railroad.

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