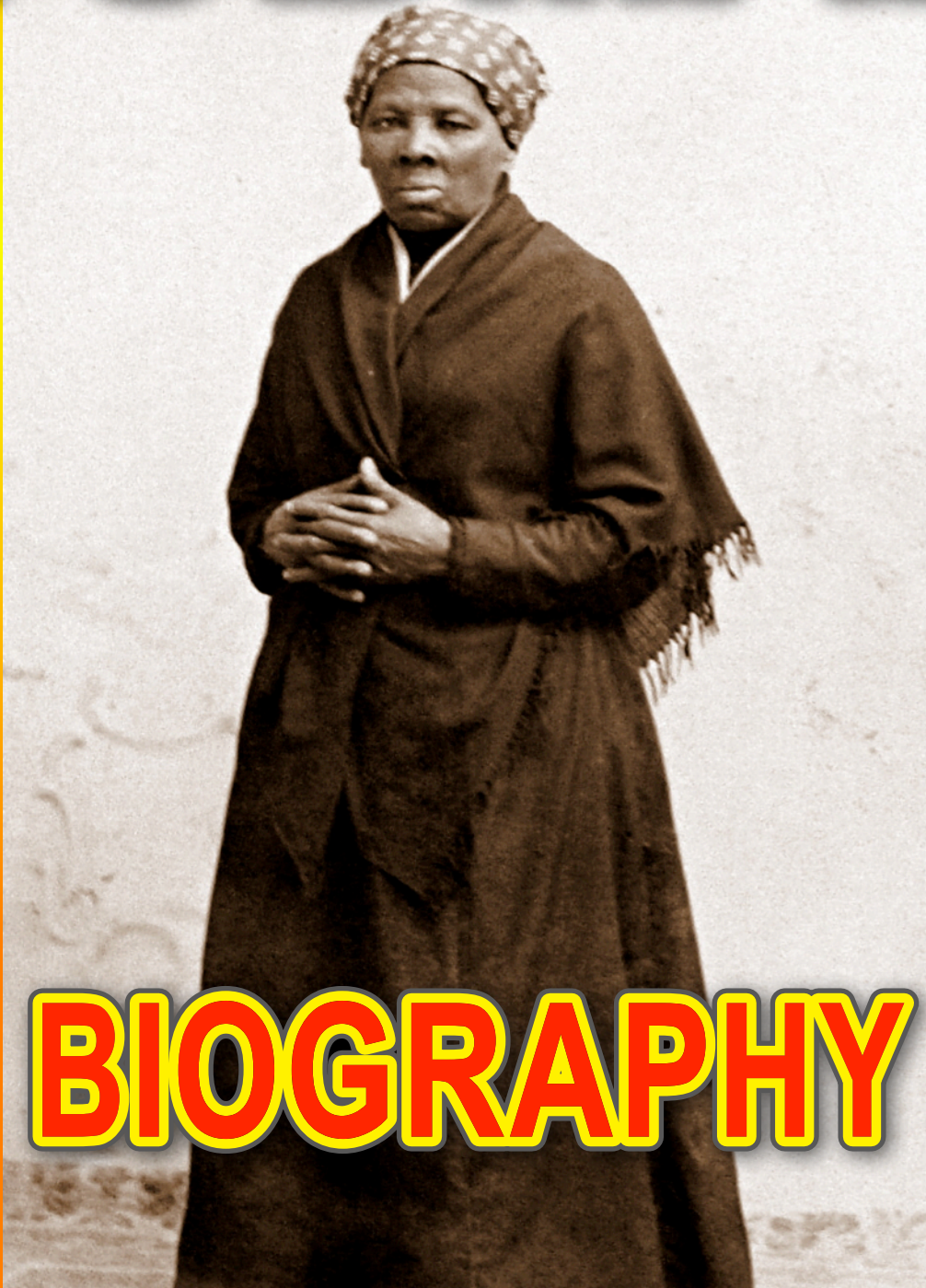


# HARRIET TUBMAN



## BIOGRAPHY

# HARRIET TUBMAN

Originally called Araminta Ross, Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland, most likely in the 1820s. She faced a childhood full of hardships that left her with injuries and health problems for the rest of her life.

In 1849, Tubman's owner died. She feared that she would be sold separately from the rest of her family, and that they would never see each other again. So she ran away with two of her brothers. They later returned, but Harriet eventually reached the free state of Pennsylvania. She made the 90-mile journey to Philadelphia on foot, making use of the Underground Railroad. This was a network of safe houses belonging to abolitionists who were willing to shelter escaping slaves.

Tubman then set about helping more people escape from slavery. They included other members of her family, like her parents, as well as anybody who wanted to escape from slavery. She became known as 'Moses', after the Bible figure who led his people out of slavery in ancient Egypt. Soon Tubman was a wanted woman, with great rewards offered for anyone who caught her.

For a year, Tubman rescued slaves relatively easily. But in 1850, a new law threatened to stop her in her tracks. It was the Fugitive Slave Law, which said that free states were obliged to capture escaped slaves and return them to slave states. In response, Tubman started taking escaped slaves to Canada, which was completely against slavery, and would not return anybody.

For ten years, Tubman kept returning to Maryland to rescue slaves and guide them to safety and freedom. In 1859, Tubman started living in Auburn, New York. During her life she met other notable abolitionists, such as John Brown, who called her 'General Tubman', and Frederick Douglass.

During the Civil War, Tubman had several roles for the Union Army, including as a nurse and spy. She even led an armed raid that freed hundreds of slaves from South Carolina. After the war she returned to New York, and became active in promoting women's rights, working alongside the likes of Susan B. Anthony. Tubman died in 1913.

# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'hardships'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'hardships' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'hardships'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'hardships'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'hardships' means.

# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: freed	liberated

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Tubman met other notable abolitionists of the time.

After the Civil War, Tubman promoted women's rights too.

Tubman traveled to the free state of Pennsylvania via the Underground Railroad.

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland, in the 1820s.

During the Civil War, Tubman had many roles for the Union side, and she freed more slaves.

When Tubman's owner died in 1849, she decided to escape from slavery.

Over the next ten years, Tubman kept returning to Maryland to rescue more slaves.



# Get to the facts

1 Where was Harriet Tubman born?

2 When did Tubman's owner die?

3 Which state did Tubman escape to?

4 Which law made things more difficult?

5 What did John Brown call Tubman?

# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

## Rescue

I was waiting at the edge of my owner's land for Harriet Tubman to rescue me. I was worried because she was late. Where was she?... (now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**



## Understanding words:

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- c Write a new sentence using the word 'hardships'.
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For example:

Key word – freed                      Synonym – liberated

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Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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## **Make a story...**

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