

Harriet Tubman

Key Terms

- key
- abolitionist
- slavery
- network
- suffrage



Harriet Tubman was a key figure in the Civil War. As an abolitionist, someone who opposed and fought against slavery, she rescued over 70 slaves and successfully brought them to freedom. She was born with the name Araminta Ross. Later, she took the name Harriet Tubman and then earned the nickname 'Moses' for saving so many people from slavery.



Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland. She suffered as a slave but eventually escaped to Philadelphia. Upon achieving freedom, she went back to help free her friends and family, risking her freedom and her life. She helped free slaves through the network of safe houses called the "Underground Railroad." She also helped John Brown prepare for his raid on Harper's Ferry. Harriet Tubman was the first woman to lead armed forces for the Union in a raid during the Civil War.

Later in her life, Harriet Tubman supported the right of women to vote, also referred to as the Women's Suffrage Movement. There have been numerous biographies and even operas based on her life. Harriet Tubman was an influential figure for equal rights for all people.

Interesting Facts:

- The Underground Railroad was not really a railroad but many houses that would hide runaway slaves in their escape to freedom.
- One way that slaves knew that a house was part of the Underground Railroad was a quilt hanging in a window.
- Harriet Tubman even worked as a spy for the Union during the Civil War!