

Araminta Harriet Greene Tubman (1820 - 1913) devoted her life to fighting slavery, helping slaves and ex-slaves, and championing the rights of women. An incredibly brave woman, she was known as the "Moses of her people."

Araminta Harriet Greene was born a slave in Maryland. In 1844, Harriet married John Tubman, who was a free man. She escaped slavery in 1849 and traveled north. She then became a conductor for the Underground Railroad and helped slaves flee to freedom in the North (both to Northern US states and to Canada). The Underground Railroad was a secret system of people of all races who helped slaves escape to the North - it was not an actual railroad. Harriet Tubman made 19 dangerous rescue trips over 10 years, rescuing over 300 slaves from Southern states. Among the people she saved were many members of her family.

Mrs. Tubman helped John Brown recruit soldiers for his raid on Harpers Ferry (1859). She worked as a nurse, scout, and a spy for the Union during the US Civil War (in South Carolina). She continued to help rescue Southern slaves during the war.

After the war, she lived in Auburn, New York, where she founded the Harriet Tubman Home for Aged Negroes and worked for the voting rights of blacks. Harriet Tubman died on March 10, 1913.

Questions:

1. Was Harriet Tubman born a slave or a free woman? _____

2. In which state was Tubman born? _____

3. What was the name of the secret organization that rescued slaves from the South?

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4. Where did the rescued slaves go in order to be free?

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5. During which war did Tubman work as a nurse, scout, and spy?

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