

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

A Hero in Disguise

by Kate Paixão

1. A young woman wearing a big hat walked down the road carrying chickens. When she recognized a man coming toward her, she pulled a string tied to one of the chicken's legs. The chickens started squawking. Because of the noise, the man avoided her.

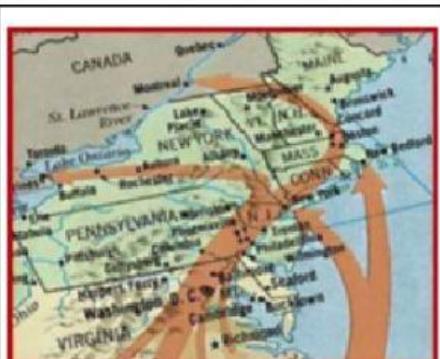


2. The woman was named Harriet Tubman. She was wearing a disguise. In fact, Harriet was an African American woman who was an escaped slave. The man who avoided her was a slaveholder who had once owned her. If he had recognized her, he would have tried to capture her again.

3. Harriet Tubman was born in 1820 to slave parents in Maryland. As a child, Harriet had a terrible and very hard life. From the early age of 6, she was forced to do backbreaking labor and was often beaten and always treated poorly. She watched her brothers and sisters be sold to other slave owners. When she was 12 years old she was hit in the head by an iron weight and suffered a brain injury which caused her to have seizures and narcolepsy, a disorder where she would fall asleep uncontrollably. Harriet's childhood taught her to be courageous and would change the future of hundreds of slaves.

4. Two hundred years ago, many African Americans were held as slaves just as Harriet was. Most slaves were in the southern United States. Tubman helped the slaves escape to the North and on to Canada. Many other people also helped. They hid escaping slaves in houses and churches along the way. This system, a group of people who worked to help free slaves, was called the Underground Railroad.

5. Harriet Tubman freed herself in 1851 using the Underground Railroad. Her journey to freedom was nearly a 90-mile-long walk to Philadelphia. Once she became free, she often thought of her family in Maryland who were still slaves. At this time though, the government passed a law making it illegal to help slaves escape. Even so, Harriet made many trips back to Maryland to help her relatives escape through the Underground Railroad. More laws were passed by the government to try to stop people from rescuing slaves. This made Harriet's work even more dangerous. In 11 years, Harriet returned to Maryland many times and rescued hundreds of slaves using the Underground Railroad.



Harriet Tubman used the Underground Railroad to help slaves escape slavery in the south and relocate to places in the north including New York and Canada.

6. Facing danger, Harriet Tubman showed courage every day. Slaveholders knew who she was and the police wanted to arrest her but she kept on doing her work to help others. Today, Harriet

Tubman is remembered as a brave leader who made the world a better place.

Directions: Select the correct answers.

1. According to the passage, which words best describe Harriet Tubman? Select three correct answers.

| | | |
|------------|------------|---------|
| selfish | brave | passive |
| courageous | determined | vicious |

Directions: Select the correct answers.

2. Which words are synonyms for the word recognized as it is used in paragraph 2? Select two correct answers.

| | | | | |
|----------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
| captured | identified | noticed | overlooked | watched |
|----------|------------|---------|------------|---------|

3. What is the passage **A Hero in Disguise** mostly about?
 - a. Disguises were an important part of the Underground Railroad.
 - b. Harriet was a courageous leader who helped slaves escape.
 - c. Harriet had to hide from slave owners.
 - d. Harriet was treated badly as a child.
4. Why did the author most likely include the map in the article?
 - a. To show where Harriet lived
 - b. To show what the United States looked like
 - c. To show the routes slaves took when escaping to the north
 - d. To show how brave Harriet was when traveling the Underground Railroad
5. The author most likely wrote this article to -
 - a. Tell you what it was like to be a slave
 - b. Explain how Harriet Tubman faced dangers to help free slaves
 - c. To tell you about injuries Harriet Tubman had as a child
 - d. To entertain you with a story from long ago

6. What question is answered in paragraph 2?
 - a. How long was the journey to Philadelphia?
 - b. When was Harriet Tubman born?
 - c. Why was Harriet wearing a disguise?
 - d. What was the Underground Railroad?

7. According to the article, Harriet Tubman helped slaves escape to the north to places such as -
 - a. Maryland
 - b. Virginia
 - c. Canada
 - d. North Carolina

8. The author included information in paragraph 3 about Harriet Tubman's childhood to -
 - a. Persuade you to move to Maryland
 - b. To entertain you with a story about someone's childhood
 - c. To explain why Harriet Tubman decided to help free slaves
 - d. To inform you of how the Underground Railroad works

9. In what year did Harriet escape slavery?
 - a. 90
 - b. 1820
 - c. 1851
 - d. 1865

10. The author used the title **A Hero in Disguise** because-
 - a. Harriet liked to dress in costumes
 - b. Harriet was a hero for freeing slaves
 - c. Slaves work uniforms to work
 - d. The Underground Railroad was disguised as a train stop

11. Which sentence from the article shows that Harriet's work to free slaves was dangerous.

- a. Her journey to freedom was nearly a 90-mile-long walk to Philadelphia.
- b. The government passes a law making it illegal to help slaves escape.
- c. Most slaves were in the southern United States.
- d. A young woman wearing a big hat walks down the road carrying chickens.

12. According to the article, what was the Underground Railroad?

- a. A train that transported slaves
- b. A person who captured slaves
- c. A group of people and safe houses
- d. Laws that prevented slavery