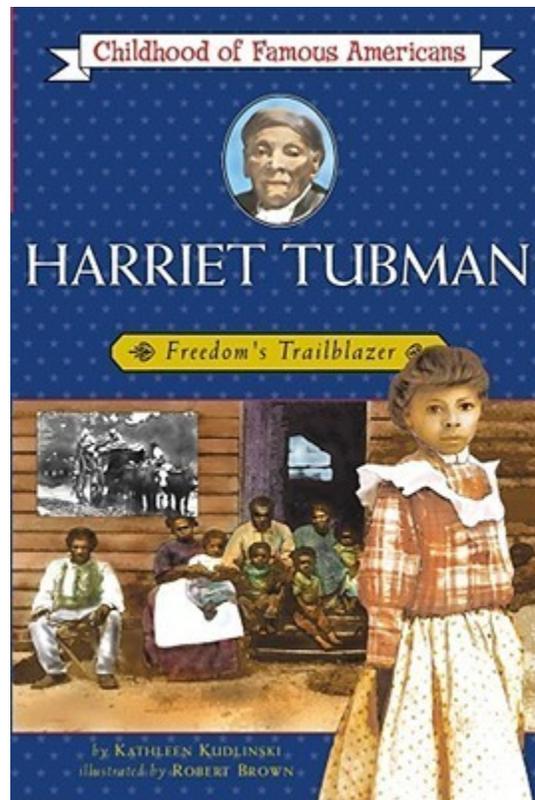


# Harriet Tubman



Based on the book – *Childhood of Famous American Harriet Tubman Freedom's Trailblazer* by Kathleen Kudlinski.

Unit Study by – Katie Sheasby @ [www.KatiesDailyLife.com](http://www.KatiesDailyLife.com)

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## How to use this study

The book is historical fiction. It is based on actual events and has added information to make a great story. The comprehension questions are based on the book and the answers provided may not be completely historically accurate. *Harriet Tubman Freedom's Trailblazer* states that it is for kids ages 8 to 12, but realize that with the topic of slavery there is violence and language (the N word) used in the book. I recommend reading the book along side your child. The discussion questions are meant to be discussed, and can lead to some wonderful conversations. Using this book as a literature study alone can be great, but I have added some fun activities to go along with each day. Pick the ones you like and have a wonderful time learning about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. I appreciate your feedback! If you find something about this study that you like or hate feel free to leave a comment on my blog.

The study is broken into 6 days, but the reading may be too much for some students to complete each day. If that is the case, break the reading into two days and just make the study last two weeks.

I have provided links for further learning, at the time of writing the links were appropriate but please use parental discretion before allowing your child to use the internet.

## Day 1

- Read chapters 1 and 2 of *Harriet Tubman Freedom's Trailblazer*.
- Complete the Comprehension worksheet. Answer in short answers.
- Discuss the Discussion Questions.
- Do the activities
- Learn a little bit about slavery. Here is a great website.  
[http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil\\_rights/history\\_of\\_slavery\\_in\\_the\\_united\\_states.php](http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_rights/history_of_slavery_in_the_united_states.php)

### Discussion Questions

1. Minty thought that Miss Susan must be a good christian because she had a lot of *Bibles*. What do you think, does having a *Bible* make you a good christian? Why or why not?
2. Was it unreasonable for Miss Susan to expect Minty to stay up all night and work all day? Why?
3. *Minty's mam* said, “ *You gots to be clever, but act simple.*” What do you think she meant?

### Activities

- Find Cambridge Maryland on a map.
- Using a current map and a map from 1825 make a list if the free and slave states. This site has a good map. <http://etc.usf.edu/maps/pages/7700/7719/7719.htm>
- Compare your life to Minty's (worksheet)
- Read the story of Moses and the burning bush in Exodus chapter 3.
- Misty's mom talks about sly old Anansi, read some stories about Anansi and then make a picture of him out of construction paper.

Chapters 1 and 2

Comprehension Questions:

1. How old was Minty in chapter 1? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who was Master Brodas? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What part of speech is the word shift on page 3?

a. verb

c. preposition

b. noun

d. adjective

4. What was Minty's real name? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Minty thought there were dresses on the table and windows, what were they really?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Explain what happened the night before Miss Susan's sister came.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How many times had Minty been beaten for not cleaning the parlor correctly? \_\_\_\_\_

8. In what year was the story taking place \_\_\_\_\_

Write T for True or F for False.

9. Miss Susan was extra cranky at night. \_\_\_\_\_

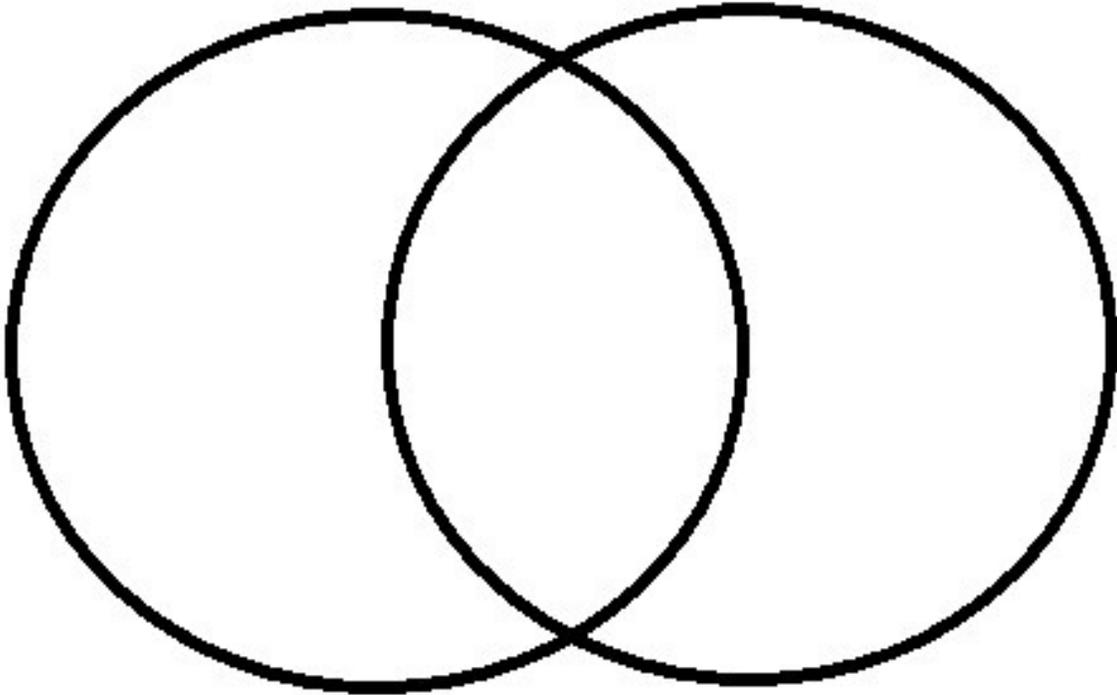
10. Minty hid in a ditch. \_\_\_\_\_

11. The maid carried Minty back to the house. \_\_\_\_\_

12. Minty apologized to Miss Susan. \_\_\_\_\_

# My life compared to Minty's

Fill in the diagram comparing your life and her life at 5 years old.



Imagine how you would feel if you had to leave your family and go to work when you were only 5 years old. How would you feel?

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## Day 2

- Read chapters 3 and 4 of *Harriet Tubman Freedom's Trailblazer*.
- Complete the Comprehension worksheet. Answer in short answers.
- Discuss the Discussion Questions.
- Do the activities

### Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the slaves used songs to tell about how other slaves had gotten away? What would have happened if the overseers would have caught on to the meanings of their songs?
2. Do you think Harriet stepped in front of the weight in order for her friend to get away, or was it just an accident? Do you think she would have recovered faster if she was not a slave? Why?
3. Do you think that Harriet's visions were sleeping spells or visions from God? Why?

### Activities

- Read Psalms 23, the Psalm that Harriet's father was reading to her.
- Make a list of character qualities you see in Harriet.
- What's in a name (worksheet)
- Find Pennsylvania on a map. How many miles would it be from where Harriet lived to freedom in Pennsylvania?
- Misty and her family enjoy dancing around the fire. She says that some dances came from Africa and others were made up. Learn about African dances. Learn part of one if you can.

Chapters 3 and 4  
Comprehension Questions

1. What happened to two of Minty's sisters? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the name of the slave who ran away? \_\_\_\_\_

3. According to the other slaves, what might happen if a slave was caught trying to run away?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Minty change her name to? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the boy in the field planning to do? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What happened to Harriet in the Bucktown Store? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How long had Harriet been sick?

a. hours

c. days

b. weeks

d. months

Write T for True or F for False

8. No one in the community was concerned about Harriet. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Master Brodas was thinking about selling Harriet. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Harriet prayed for Brodas to die. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Harriet's family believed she was having visions from God. \_\_\_\_\_

12. Harriet was determined to get well and not stay sickly all her life. \_\_\_\_\_



## Day 3

- Read chapters 5 and 6 of *Harriet Tubman Freedom's Trailblazer*.
- Complete the Comprehension worksheet. Answer in short answers.
- Discuss the Discussion Questions.
- Do the activities

### Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Harriet's master hadn't married her off already?
2. Why didn't John save his money to buy Harriet's freedom? Did he want her to be free? If Harriet ended up having children, do you think he would make buying their freedom a priority?
3. According to the lawyer Harriet's mom was a free woman not a slave. Would it be fair to her slave owner to make her and her family free even though he bought them? What about her mom, is it fair to keep her a slave? Why was there nothing that could be done if the lawyer was able to find proof that she should be free?

### Activities

- Write a letter to John Tubman from Harriet explaining why you need to have your freedom. Try and convince him to run away with you.
- Learn more about the underground railroad. Here is a website with good information.  
[http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil\\_war/underground\\_railroad.php](http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war/underground_railroad.php)
- Could you survive as a run away slave? Play this game to find out.  
[http://undergroundrailroad.muzzylane.com/play?ar\\_a=1](http://undergroundrailroad.muzzylane.com/play?ar_a=1)
- Compare John and Harriet (worksheet)
- Listen to Part one of the Underground Railroad from Adventures in Odyssey. It is about another slave who is trying to escape. (Available from Family Christian)
- Harriet doesn't want hate to consume her. Use a *Bible* concordance and find out what the *Bible* says about hate.

Chapters 5 and 6  
Comprehension Questions

1. What was Harriet saving her money for? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How much did Harriet pay for the oxen? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What had Harriet's father taught her in the woods? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is a pattyroller?

a. a person who made prepared food

c. someone who helped slaves

b. someone who captured slaves

d. a type of machinery

5. Why did the white people want the slaves to have babies early? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What were the stipulations that Dr. Thompson put on Harriet's marriage?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What did John find out from the lawyer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What was Harriet praying for? \_\_\_\_\_

True or False

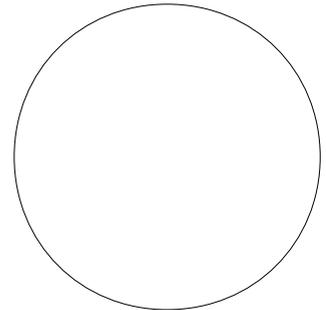
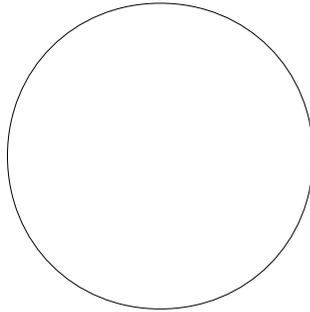
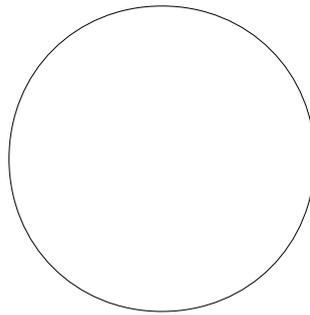
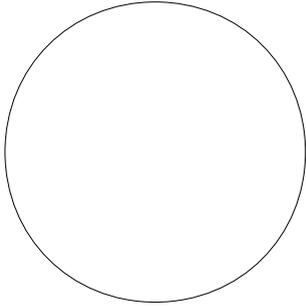
9. Harriet was able to escape the first night she tried. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Harriet escaped when she was suppose to be milking. \_\_\_\_\_

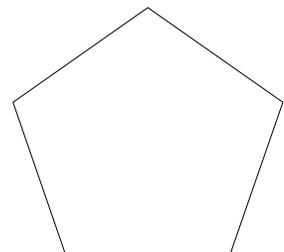
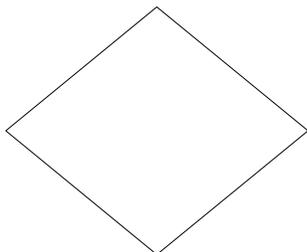
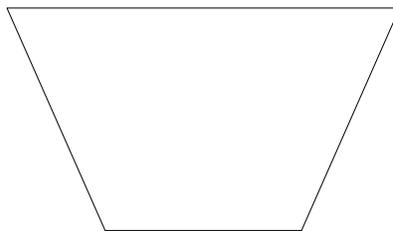
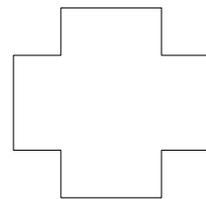
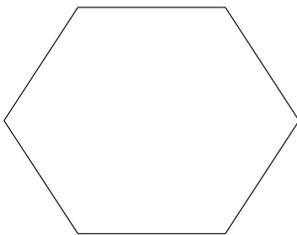
11. She sung songs as a way of saying goodby. \_\_\_\_\_

# John and Harriet

John and Harriet were both African Americans. John was free and Harriet was a slave. In the circles below list some of the things that John was able to do, but Harriet was not.



What hardships might Harriet face on her way to Pennsylvania? List one in each shape.



## Day 4 - 5

- Read chapters 7 and 8 of *Harriet Tubman Freedom's Trailblazer*.
- Complete the Comprehension worksheet. Answer in short answers.
- Discuss the Discussion Questions.
- Do the activities

### Discussion Questions

1. What would it feel like to leave your entire family and never see them again? Do you think you would be able to run away knowing the risks and the trouble you would face if you got caught?
2. Harriet decided to go back to get her family. Was this a good decision? Why?
3. Harriet was called the Moses of her people. Did the name fit her?

### Activities

- On a map trace the new route that Harriet would have to take to freedom. See pages 137 and 138 for details.
- Make a wanted poster for Harriet. List her amazing qualities and why you would want her as a friend.
- Many amazing people were mentioned in today's readings. Look up a few of those people.
- Learn more about Harriet Tubman. Here are a few links to get you started.  
[http://www.ducksters.com/biography/women\\_leaders/harriet\\_tubman.php](http://www.ducksters.com/biography/women_leaders/harriet_tubman.php)
- [http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/kids/en\\_US/explore/history/harriet-tubman/](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/kids/en_US/explore/history/harriet-tubman/)
- Listen to part 2 of The Underground Railroad from Adventures in Odyssey.
- Other Important People (worksheet)
- Make a vendiagram to compare Harriet Tubman to Moses
- Learn some of the hymns that were sung by the slaves

Chapter 7 and 8  
Comprehension Questions

1. What was Harriet afraid might happen if she was caught running away?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did she keep repeating to herself?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What secret phrase did Harriet have to say at the first safe house?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. After the first house, how did she get to the next stop on the underground railroad?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did Harriet have to wear clothes of a man?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who gave Harriet her first pair of shoes?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How old was Harriet when she reached Pennsylvania?

8. Why was Harriet surprised when she was asked if she could read?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Who was the first person Harriet wanted to save?

10. Why did Ben have a cloth tied over his eyes?

\_\_\_\_\_

11. How did Harriet get Mary Ann's brother to keep going when he wanted to turn back?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Who was Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What law was passed in 1850 that made things more difficult? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Where did the slaves need to go to be safe? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Who was Patty Cannon?

a. A friend to the slaves

c. A slave

c. A free black woman

d. A former friend who turned on the slaves

True or False

16. John and Harriet reunited and helped many people together. \_\_\_\_\_

17. A white man led an attack on slave owners. \_\_\_\_\_

18. Abraham Lincoln was Harriet's hero. \_\_\_\_\_

19. Harriet spoke at women's rights conferences. \_\_\_\_\_

20. They were offering \$4,00 for the capture of Harriet. \_\_\_\_\_

# Other Important People

Match the person to their description.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. William Still          | a. Illinois Lawyer who became president.                      |
| 2. Frederick Douglass     | b. Part of the Woman's rights movement.                       |
| 3. Abraham Lincoln        | c. African American abolitionist.                             |
| 4. Elizabeth Cady Stanton | d. Commander in the Confederate Army.                         |
| 5. Susan B Anthony        | e. African American writer, speaker, and civil rights leader. |
| 6. John Brown             | f. Leader in the Woman's rights movement.                     |
| 7. Robert E Lee           | g. White abolitionist who was hung for treason.               |

## Day 6

- Read chapters 9 and 10 of *Harriet Tubman Freedom's Trailblazer*.
- Complete the Comprehension worksheet. Answer in short answers.
- Discuss the Discussion Questions.
- Activities

### Discussion Questions

1. Why was the end of slavery a mixed blessing?
2. Harriet did a lot for her country. Why was she not paid by the government?
3. Harriet Tubman was a vital part of American History, What might have happened if she didn't go back and help others? What if she never helped in the war efforts?
4. Has America changed in the way they treat people? Even though slavery has ended, is everyone treated the same?

### Activities

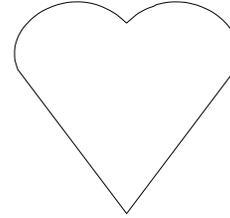
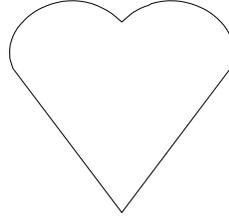
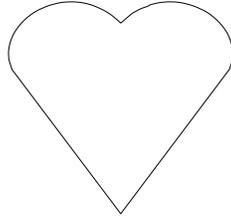
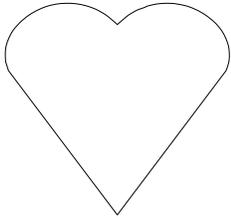
- Write a book report about the book
- Do a skit about Harriet Tubman and some of her wonderful accomplishments.
- Learn more about the Civil War.
- Play another game to learn more about the underground railroad.  
[http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/underground\\_railroad/plantation.htm](http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/underground_railroad/plantation.htm)
- Write an acrostic poem about Harriet Tubman
- Listen to part 3 of The Underground Railroad from Adventures in Odyssey.
- Watch the Video, *Animated Heroes Harriet Tubman* (Available from Family Christian)

Chapters 9 and 10  
Comprehension Questions

1. Where did Harriet move her parents \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did the army pay Harriet? \_\_\_\_\_

3. List some of the things Harriet did in the army.



4. What disease were the white soldiers dying from? \_\_\_\_\_

5. About how many slaves had Harriet led to freedom?

a. 300

b. 30

c. 100

d. 150

6. About how many black men joined the war on the side of the union? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What name had come to mean freedom? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What message did Harriet receive from her parents? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What happened on April 9, 1865? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What book did Sarah Hopkins write? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Who did Harriet Marry? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What was Harriet's last work? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

### Day 1

1. 5 years old
2. The slave owner that owned Minty's family
3. B
4. Araminta
5. A table cloth and curtains
6. Miss Susan needed her sleep so Minty had to stay up all night and make sure that the baby didn't wake up Miss Susan. Minty couldn't stay up so Miss Susan whipped her each time the baby cried.
7. 3
8. 1825
9. F
10. T
11. F
12. F

### Day 2

1. They were sold in chains to another owner.
2. Joseph
3. he may be; branded, whipped, have his foot cut half off, have a cage locked on his head
4. Harriet
5. Running away
6. She was hit in the head with a weight
7. D
8. F
9. T
10. T
11. F
12. T

### Day 3

1. She wanted to buy her freedom
2. \$40
3. He taught her how to hide and survive if she ever decided to escape.
4. B
5. They would have more slaves to sell or work their farms.
6. She could live with John only on the weekends and any babies they had would belong to Dr. Thompson.
7. Harriet and her family were already free, but that there was nothing that could be done about it.
8. She didn't want hate to take over her
9. F
10. T
11. T

### Day 4

1. Her ear cut off, face branded with hot iron, hung

2. Keep goin'. What's ahead gots to be better than what's gone before.
3. A friend of a friend
4. She hid in a potato wagon and then walked for two days to a graveyard
5. They were looking for her and might not recognize her in those clothes.
6. Mr. Garrett
7. 29
8. It was against the law for a slave to learn how to read or teach someone else to read.
9. Mary Ann
10. He didn't want to see Harriet. If the master asked him if he saw her he wanted to be able to say no.
11. She pretended to have a gun
12. Harriet
13. The Fugitive Slave Act
14. Canada
15. d
16. F
17. T
18. T
19. T
20. F

### Important People

1. c
2. e
3. a
4. b or f
5. f or b
6. g
7. d

### Day 6

1. To New York
2. no
3. answers may vary - nurse, cook, nursed white soldiers, spy,
4. small pox
5. a
6. 200,000
7. Lincoln
8. We need you.
9. The Confederate states surrendered
10. Scenes in the life of Harriet Tubman
11. Nelson Davis
12. She opened a home for Indigent Aged Negros