

Paths to Freedom

Read evidence about a secret network and Harriet Tubman.

VS.7.c "explaining the significance of the Underground Railroad and the contributions of Harriet Tubman;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that explain why the Underground Railroad mattered. Circle two details that show what Harriet Tubman did.

A Secret Network

- ① In the 1800s, slavery held many African Americans in bondage in the Southern United States. The Underground Railroad was not a real railroad with tracks and trains. It was a secret network of people, homes, and routes that helped enslaved people seek freedom. People who guided travelers were often called conductors. Safe homes or other hiding places were called stations.
- ② Harriet Tubman escaped slavery in Maryland in 1849. After reaching freedom, she chose to return south many times to lead other people toward safety. Tubman used careful planning, trusted helpers, and nighttime travel to avoid capture. She became one of the most famous conductors on the Underground Railroad. Her courage helped families move closer to freedom, even though she faced serious danger.
- ③ The Underground Railroad mattered because it gave enslaved people chances to resist slavery and reach safer places. It also joined people of different backgrounds in a shared effort against slavery. The network could not help everyone, and escape was risky. Still, its stories showed that slavery was cruel and unjust. Harriet Tubman's repeated journeys showed how one person's actions could make a meaningful difference.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What was the Underground Railroad, and what did it help enslaved people do?

2 Why was the Underground Railroad significant in the fight against slavery? Use two ideas from the passage.

3 How did Harriet Tubman contribute to the Underground Railroad? Give two details.

4 What danger did Harriet Tubman face when she helped people escape?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about the Underground Railroad. Explain why it was significant, describe one contribution Harriet Tubman made, and include one detail that shows the danger she faced.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that explain why the Underground Railroad mattered. Circle two details that show what Harriet Tubman did. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was the Underground Railroad, and what did it help enslaved people do?	It was a secret network of people, homes, and routes. It helped enslaved people seek freedom and reach safer places.
2	Why was the Underground Railroad significant in the fight against slavery? Use two ideas from the passage.	It gave enslaved people chances to resist slavery and reach safer places. It also brought people of different backgrounds together against slavery and showed that slavery was cruel and unjust.
3	How did Harriet Tubman contribute to the Underground Railroad? Give two details.	After escaping slavery, Tubman returned south many times to lead people toward safety. She used careful planning, trusted helpers, and nighttime travel to avoid capture.
4	What danger did Harriet Tubman face when she helped people escape?	She faced the danger of being captured.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Underground Railroad was significant because it helped enslaved people resist slavery and seek safer places. Harriet Tubman contributed by returning south to guide people toward safety. Her work was dangerous because she could have been captured.

Accept equivalent explanations that use accurate passage evidence about the network's importance and Tubman's actions. For the museum label, look for all three required ideas: significance, a Tubman contribution, and danger.