



FOLD

Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railway

A	There she learnt about the 'Underground Railway'.
B	In 1857 she finally managed to free her parents.
C	When the war finished she married Nelson Davis and went to live in Auburn, New York.
D	She grew up as a slave on a plantation where she was treated very badly even while a child.
E	She campaigned for black people and women's rights and set up schools and a home for old people.
F	Five years later, when she thought that she was going to be sold to another farm, she managed to escape to Philadelphia, helped by a white neighbour.
G	Instead of staying in safety in the north, Harriet Tubman soon went back to the south to rescue other people, including members of her family.
H	This wasn't a real railway – but was the name given to the routes that slaves could use to escape from the south (where slavery was common) to the north (where it had been banned in the 1780s).
I	But she was never caught.
J	If anyone got frightened and wanted to give up or go back, she threatened to kill them!
K	When she was 25 she married John Tubman, a free African American.
L	Runaway slaves were called 'passengers'.
M	But she was very tough with them and with her companions.
N	She worked there – and then was a patient – until she died in 1913.
O	Harriet Ross was a Black African American born in Maryland, USA in about 1819.
P	The American civil war broke out in 1861. Harriet became a soldier, a nurse and even a spy for the north's Union army.
Q	And no slave was ever recaptured on her 'railway journeys'.
R	The plantation owners hated her and offered a large reward for anyone who could catch her.
S	Her story of courage and determination continues to inspire people to this day.
T	Over the years she went 19 times and rescued more than 300 people.
U	These were houses, farms, barns etc. owned by supporters of the anti-slavery movement.
V	Harriet's work was, of course, very risky for her – but she never seemed to be frightened for her own safety.
W	'Conductors' helped them to travel from one 'station' to another.

TEACHER'S NOTES

HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY

Activity

Pairwork. Re-ordering story.

Focus

Reading.

Preparation

Photocopy one worksheet for each student. Fold the worksheet along the dotted line so that only the top section is visible. Bring scissors to class if students want to cut the text up into separate strips.

Procedure

- 1 Ask students to look at the diagram. Explain that it is the true story of a woman's life. Students work in pairs to tell their partners the life story in sentences, e.g. This woman was born in about 1819.
- 2 Ask students to unfold the worksheet and look at the bottom section. The life story is there – but in the wrong order. In pairs, students should use the diagram to help them reconstruct the story, writing numbers (1, 2, 3 etc.) in the correct order. Students may want to cut up the strips in order to lay them out in a different order.

- 3 Pairs can check with other pairs to see if they have the same answers. Check answers with the whole class at the end.

Extra task

Ask students to decide where paragraph breaks could be placed to organise the finished text.

Answers

Paragraph 1
OD

Paragraph 2
KFAHLWU

Paragraph 3
GTB

Paragraph 4
VRIQMJ

Paragraph 5
PCEN

Paragraph 6
S