

# Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman was born around 1820 in Maryland. Her parents were both slaves. Tubman was put to work at age five. In 1849, at age 29, Tubman escaped to the North. There, she would be free.



Tubman went to Philadelphia. There, she learned about the Underground Railroad. The people who ran it helped runaway slaves find their way north. Tubman started helping with the Underground Railroad. She helped to bring slaves north.

During the 1850s, Tubman returned to the South many times to help free other slaves. In all, she rescued about 300 slaves. She managed to get every one of them to the free North. Tubman had to be very careful. She carried sleeping powder for babies who cried. That way, people looking for escaped slaves wouldn't hear the babies crying.

Within a few years, Tubman became well-known. People who believed in keeping slaves wanted her caught. They offered \$40,000 to anyone who could catch her. That was a huge amount of money in those days.

Tubman continued to work for civil rights even after it became against the law to keep slaves. She spoke out for women and former slaves. Tubman died in 1913 in Auburn, New York.

## **Dictionary:**

**civil rights** (*noun*) rights that all people are supposed to have

**slave** (*noun*) a person who is forced to work for no money