1st Grade

Underground Railroad

Course 13 - Lesson

Key Themes

- Perseverance
- Determination

Core Values

- Faith
- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

- Explain what life was like for Harriet Tubman when she was a child
- Describe how Harriet Tubman was able to stay positive during hard times

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Key Terms

01 **Harriet Tubman** — She was known for helping others get to live in freedom from slavery

02 **Property** — Things that belong to someone

03 **Scold** — To get onto someone for something they did

04 **Overseer** — A manager of slaves

05 **Defiance** — Refusing to obey someone in authority

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Introduction

ASK Students

Pretend you had to go to work like adults do. However, when you finished your work, you did not get paid. Sometimes you would get hurt at work and have to take care of yourself. Other kids would get to go outside and play, but not you. How would this make you feel? (**allow students to respond**)

TELL Students

Harriet Tubman went through something similar as a child. She was a slave which means she (and her family) lived with someone else and had to work for that person. She was not allowed to go play and have fun. Let's find out how she was able to stay positive while living in that situation.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty - **Episode 13 Cartoon + Key Facts About Harriet Tubman**

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Lesson Guide

TELL Students

Harriet Tubman was born around the early 1820s (her actual birthdate is unknown) in Dorchester County, Maryland. While today most people know her as Harriet, her birth name was Araminta Ross and her family called her "Minty."

Araminta had eight brothers and sisters and was not born with her freedom but was born into slavery. This means that even as a little girl, she did not have any control over her decisions. Because slaves were viewed as property, Araminta could be punished and scolded by her masters, sold and separated from her family, and forced to work long hours in terrible conditions.

Even as a young girl, Araminta dreamed of being free like you and me and having a happy childhood. Instead of having playdates with other children or playing games with her family, Araminta spent her days working hard. When Araminta was just about five years old, she worked as a babysitter for little babies. She would get in trouble if they cried. During her childhood, Araminta was also made to work in the fields, which she liked more than doing housework.

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Lesson Guide

TELL Students

Growing up in such hard conditions made Araminta incredibly brave, with a solid sense of right and wrong. One day, when Aramanta was just around 12 years old, she was helping in a store and suffered a horrible injury. An overseer (the manager of the slaves) chased a runaway slave to the store and told Araminta to help tie him up. In her first act of defiance against the evils of slavery, she refused to help. As the escaped slave tried to run, the overseer threw a heavy large weight to stop his escape, but instead, the weight hit Araminta's head and cracked her skull. She miraculously survived the accident, although she suffered from headaches, sleep problems, and "visions" (which she believed were from God) for the rest of her life.

KEY Point

Even with her injury, Harriet's courage and her faith in God were strong. She would come to rely upon God for His help throughout her life as she faced many challenges. She said, "I always told Him, 'I trust you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect You to lead me,' and He always did."