

Freedom Trail: The Story of Harriet Tubman Literature Projects

<p>AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE</p> <p>Harriet's great-grandmother was captured and brought to America by slave traders, and Harriet herself was then born into slavery 100 years later. The stories of both their homeland and their lives in slavery had been passed down for generations. Research the transatlantic slave trade, and then use www.scribblemaps.com to map the routes that slave traders used.</p>	<p>AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUALS</p> <p>Throughout <i>Freedom Train</i>, Dorothy Sterling shares the words to many African American spirituals that played an important part in the lives of slaves. Research some of these spirituals and learn the tune and words of some that you enjoy. Perform them for your family or friends, and share the meaning and symbolism of the words.</p>	<p>BRAIN INJURY</p> <p>Harriet suffered a severe brain injury as she was helping her friend Jim escape. Because of this injury, she suffered from pain, seizures, sleeping spells, and even visions for the rest of her life. Research the human brain, and create a diagram that shows the different parts of the brain. Include information about the functions of each part of the brain. You might desire to create a 3-D model of the brain.</p>	<p>DELIVER ME</p> <p>Since many slaves were forbidden from learning to read, they orally shared Biblical stories of deliverance that were passed from generation to generation. Read through your favorite stories of God's provision of deliverance, and practice telling these stories orally. You might want to video record yourself telling several of these stories, and try to include all of the details that the Bible provides.</p>
<p>HOPE AND FAITH</p> <p>Dorothy Sterling describes many ways that slaves clung to Scripture as their "source of hope and inspiration." Use a concordance to find Bible verses that fill you with hope for the future. Create a small pocket-sized notebook that includes 8-10 of these verses, and illustrate them. Keep this book in a place where you can refer to it when you need encouragement.</p>	<p>LIFE OF A SLAVE</p> <p>Life was extremely difficult for Harriet, Ben, Old Rit, and the rest of their family. Do some additional reading about some other aspects of everyday life for slaves. What was a typical day like for someone living in slavery? Then create a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation to share what you have learned from both <i>Freedom Train</i> and your extra research.</p>	<p>FREEDOM PASSWORDS</p> <p><i>Freedom Train</i> tells about the "passengers," "conductors," and "stations" along The Underground Railroad. Imagine that you are a conductor along the Underground Railroad, and brainstorm different code words and passwords that you might use in different situations. Then create a codebook with your passwords and definitions.</p>	<p>FOLLOW THAT STAR</p> <p>Ben taught Harriet how to use the world around her, including the north star and moss growth, to find her way through the woods. Do some research about some other methods that you can use to navigate your way around the world using the sun, moon, and stars. Then create a poster showing several of these methods. Try demonstrating your methods to your friends!</p>
<p>WHEN AND WHERE</p> <p>Dorothy Sterling tells about some of the events that contributed to slavery being abolished in our country, but there were many other significant events in this fight against slavery. Create a timeline of the abolition of slavery in America. You should include dates of important events in the anti-slavery movement, as well as dates that individual states made owning slaves illegal.</p>	<p>RAILROAD CREATIVITY</p> <p>Conductors along the Underground Railroad had to be creative in finding ways to hide their "passengers" as they traveled. Sketch several designs of ways that you could have hidden these travelers, keeping in mind what houses would have been like in those days. Be creative, and make sure that your ideas reflect only items that would have been available in the mid-1800s.</p>	<p>MOMENT OF FREEDOM</p> <p>At the end of the chapter titled "Riding on the Railroad," Harriet steps into Pennsylvania and gains her freedom. Re-read what she later said to a friend, and then spend a few minutes thinking about the other thoughts and feelings that might have flooded Harriet at that moment. Create a piece of artwork that represents Harriet's first few moments of freedom.</p>	<p>PERSUADE ME, OR NOT</p> <p>Pretend that you are William Still meeting Harriet for the first time. Write an argument to either encourage her to return to the Southern states to help rescue other slaves or to persuade her to avoid the dangers of such missions. Include details that show your understanding of what trials and rewards an escaping slave might experience. Now try presenting this argument to a parent or friend...how persuasive were you?</p>
<p>FUGITIVE ALERT</p> <p>The Fugitive Slave Law was passed after Harriet had already helped many of her fellow slaves escape. Do a little more research on this law, and create a TV news segment explaining the details of it to your fellow Americans. Pretend that you are a newscaster, providing information without sharing your own personal thoughts, but sharing the reasons that people of that day have for supporting or opposing it.</p>	<p>FAIR FORGERY</p> <p>As part of Ben and Old Rit's escape to the safety of the North, they took a train ride with papers that had been forged for them by their Quaker friends. Use what you know about Harriet's parents and the laws of their day to create authentic papers explaining who Ben and Rit were, as well as their purpose for travel.</p>	<p>PROCLAIM IT</p> <p>When Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, it began the process of freeing slaves; however, many people don't know that it did not actually free all enslaved people. Work together with a parent to learn more about the Proclamation, and then create a game to teach your friends about what this document actually did--and did not--do. to further the abolishment of slavery.</p>	<p>HARRIET TUBMAN HOUSE</p> <p>Harriet Tubman's home still stands in Auburn, New York. Using the knowledge that you have gained about Harriet, design a plaque to stand at the front of this historic site honoring Harriet Tubman's life. You might desire to explore plaque styles from other historic sites. In addition to the text that you write, use various art mediums to make your plaque visually appealing.</p>