



## Introduction: Background on Harriet Tubman and her role in the Underground Railroad

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery around 1822, was a remarkable woman who defied all odds to become one of the most influential figures in American history. Known as "Moses" by those she helped lead to freedom, Tubman played a pivotal role in the Underground Railroad—a network of secret routes and safe houses used by enslaved African Americans to escape to free states or Canada.

Tubman's own journey towards freedom began when she escaped from slavery herself in 1849. Despite facing numerous dangers and challenges along the way, she successfully made it to Philadelphia, where she found safety and became involved in abolitionist activities. Tubman's commitment to fighting for the rights and liberation of others did not end with her own emancipation.

Over an extraordinary decade-long period between 1850 and 1860, [Harriet Tubman](#) courageously led approximately 13 expeditions back into slaveholding territories—primarily Maryland—to rescue family members and other enslaved individuals seeking freedom. Her tireless efforts were instrumental in saving over seventy people from the clutches of bondage.

Tubman's ability to navigate through treacherous terrain undetected while simultaneously outwitting slave catchers is a testament to both her intelligence and unwavering determination. She became known for employing ingenious tactics such as disguises, code words, forged documents, and even herbal remedies that induced sleepiness among babies during their perilous journeys towards liberty.

Harriet Tubman stands tall as a symbol of resilience against oppression—a beacon of hope for countless individuals yearning for freedom amidst the darkness of slavery. With each successful mission conducted on behalf of those trapped within its grip, Tubman proved that courageous action could make a tangible difference in dismantling this unjust system. Her contributions serve as an inspiration not only within the context of the Underground Railroad but also in the broader struggle for human rights and equality.

## Overview of the Combahee River Raid and its significance during the Civil War

The raid targeted plantations along the Combahee River—a vital waterway for transporting goods and supplies for the Confederacy. Tubman's intimate knowledge of this region proved invaluable as she provided essential intelligence about enemy fortifications and potential escape routes for those seeking freedom. Her expertise in navigating through marshes and swamps made her an indispensable asset to the Union forces planning this operation.

On that fateful night, Tubman accompanied around three hundred Union soldiers aboard several boats as they stealthily approached their targets under cover of darkness. The raiders quickly overwhelmed Confederate

defenses while freeing approximately seven hundred enslaved individuals from bondage—an extraordinary achievement that dealt a significant blow to both slavery and Confederate infrastructure.

The significance of the Combahee River Raid cannot be overstated. It demonstrated not only Harriet Tubman's strategic brilliance but also highlighted how African Americans were actively involved in fighting against slavery during this tumultuous period in American history. The raid further dispelled racist myths surrounding black inferiority by showcasing their bravery and determination on behalf of their own liberation.

Harriet Tubman's involvement in military operations during the Civil War exemplifies her unwavering commitment to justice and equality. Through her leadership during missions such as the Combahee River Raid, she not only saved countless lives but also challenged societal norms by proving that African Americans had both agency and capability within wartime efforts. Her legacy serves as a testament to both personal courage and collective resistance against oppression—inspiring generations that followed to continue fighting for freedom and equality.

## **Harriet Tubman's leadership qualities and her involvement in the planning and execution of the raid**

Harriet Tubman's leadership qualities were essential in the planning and execution of the Combahee River Raid. Her extensive experience as a conductor on the Underground Railroad equipped her with invaluable skills, such as strategic thinking, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to her cause.

Tubman's ability to gather intelligence about enemy positions and devise effective escape routes for those seeking freedom showcased her sharp mind and meticulous attention to detail. She was known for conducting thorough reconnaissance missions prior to each raid, carefully mapping out key locations and identifying potential risks or obstacles that needed to be overcome.

In addition to her tactical expertise, Tubman possessed exceptional communication skills that allowed her to effectively coordinate with Union forces during the raid. Her ability to convey information clearly and concisely ensured smooth collaboration between herself, fellow conductors from the Underground Railroad network, and Union soldiers involved in the operation.

Tubman's natural charisma inspired confidence among both enslaved individuals seeking liberation and Union soldiers alike. Her unwavering determination served as a guiding light for those around her—instilling hope during times of uncertainty while fostering unity among disparate groups working towards a common goal.

Harriet Tubman's involvement in planning and executing military operations demonstrated not only her resourcefulness but also highlighted how she exemplified true leadership during tumultuous times. Through her unwavering dedication, strategic brilliance, effective communication skills, and inspiring presence on the battlefield, she played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of critical missions like the Combahee River Raid—leaving an indelible mark on American history as a beacon of courage and resilience against oppression.