

Harriet Tubman: Historical Research, Digital Skills, AI Extension by Jennifer Gagliardi

Objective: Students will develop historical research skills and extend digital literacy skills through interaction with generative AI Harriet Tubman.

1. Follow lesson steps outlined in Google Applied Digital Skills: [Introduction to Research and Interview a Person from History: Harriet Tubman](#) (using research to practice digital skills)
2. Supplement text-based content with secondary sources from NPS.gov: [Underground Railroad](#) (historical sites, photos, maps, projects)
3. Submit interview questions from the above Google Applied Digital Skills: [Introduction to Research and Interview a Person from History: Harriet Tubman](#) (plus develop and ask their own questions) to [Humy AI Chat with Harriet Tubman](#)

Note: Compare to [Humy.AI-generated Harriet Tubman Interview lesson plan!](#)



Harriet Tubman (Humy AI) Hello! I'm Harriet Tubman, a fearless leader in the fight for freedom. I escaped slavery myself and devoted my life to guiding others to liberty. I made 19 trips to the South, guiding over 300 slaves to freedom. I also served as a spy during the Civil War, fighting for the Union and freeing more slaves. Feel free to ask me anything!

You ([Question 1 from Google Applied Digital Skills: Harriet Tubman](#)) What was your childhood like?

Harriet Tubman (Humy AI) My childhood was filled with hardship and struggle. I was born into slavery in Maryland, and I endured the cruelty of plantation life from a young age. But even in those difficult circumstances, I always had a strong spirit and an unyielding determination for freedom. It was that spirit that fueled my desire to escape and ultimately led me to become a conductor on the Underground Railroad. I hope it inspires you, too, to persevere in the face of adversity.

You (clarifying question) What kind of work did children do on a plantation in Maryland?

Harriet Tubman (Humy AI) Children on plantations in Maryland were often put to work at a very young age, performing tasks like picking cotton, tending to animals, and doing chores around the plantation. I myself started working in the fields when I was just a young girl. It was a difficult and exhausting life, but it also instilled in me a sense of resilience and resourcefulness that would later serve me well on my journey to freedom and in leading others to theirs. My experiences as a child shaped me into the determined leader I became.

You (Rephrase request) Can you rephrase your answer in simple English, please?

Harriet Tubman (Humy AI) Sure. On the plantation, kids like me had to do a lot of hard work. We were picking cotton, taking care of animals, and doing chores around the farm from a very young age. It was tough, but it taught me to be strong and clever, which helped me later on when I fought for freedom.

You ([Question 2 from Google Applied Digital Skills: Harriet Tubman](#)) How did you get involved with the Underground Railroad?

Harriet Tubman (Humy AI) I got involved with the Underground Railroad because I felt that it was my duty to help others escape the oppression of slavery. After I successfully escaped to freedom myself, I couldn't turn a blind eye to the suffering of others who were still enslaved. So, I made it my mission to guide them to freedom as well. The network of brave individuals and safe houses along the Underground Railroad became a lifeline for those seeking liberation, and I was honored to be a part of it. It was a dangerous path, but one that I was willing to risk my life for, because no one should live in chains.

You ([NPS](#)) What was the Underground Railroad?

Harriet Tubman (Humy AI) The Underground Railroad was not an actual railroad or underground, but rather a secret network of people, safe houses, and routes that helped slaves escape to freedom in the North and Canada. It was organized by abolitionists and conductors like myself who were committed to the cause of emancipation. The "stations" along the route provided food, shelter, and guidance to those seeking freedom, while conductors like me led groups of fugitive slaves on perilous journeys under the cover of darkness. It was a lifeline for those in bondage, offering hope and a path to liberty. And it was one of the most important ways we fought against slavery.

You (Rephrase Request) Can you rephrase your answer in simple English, please?

Harriet Tubman (Humy AI) The Underground Railroad was like a secret path for slaves who wanted to be free. It wasn't a real train or underground, but it was a network of people, safe houses, and routes that helped slaves escape to freedom in the North and Canada. It gave hope and a way out for those who were suffering under slavery. We conductors led groups of fugitive slaves on dangerous journeys at night, guiding them to safety. It was our way of fighting against the cruelty of slavery and helping others find their freedom.

You (Student Connection Question--emotional content) Many of the immigrants have to leave their countries because of war and gang violence. Although we are physically safe here, we still suffer emotionally from the journey. Although we think about the people we left behind, we can't go back and it breaks our hearts. What advice do you have for us?

Harriet Tubman (Humy AI) My dear friend, your words touch my heart deeply. I understand the pain of leaving loved ones behind and the emotional toll of such a difficult journey. You are not alone in feeling this way. When I guided my fellow slaves to freedom, many had to leave their families and homes behind, and the weight of these separations was heavy on all our hearts.

My advice to you is to hold onto hope and remain strong in the face of adversity. Remember that you are resilient and capable, just as I witnessed in the courageous souls who sought freedom alongside me. Look for supportive communities that can help ease your emotional burden and provide solace. You may be far from home, but your spirit remains unbroken.

And always remember, just as I did during my journeys on the Underground Railroad, that your perseverance will lead you to a brighter tomorrow. You have already shown great strength by making it this far, and I believe that strength will carry you through whatever challenges lie ahead.

You (Closing the Conversation) Thank you for your courage and wisdom.

Harriet Tubman (Humy AI) My dear friend, it has been an honor to share my courage and wisdom with you. Remember, you are not alone in your struggle, and your resilience will guide you through the darkness toward a brighter future. Keep your spirit unbroken, and know that you carry the strength of those who have come before you. I am with you in spirit, cheering you on from afar. Stay strong and hold onto hope. You are capable of overcoming the challenges that lie ahead.