

MEET THE REAL HARRIET TUBMAN

In Season 2 of **UNDERGROUND**, premiering March 8, 2017 on WGN America, you see an intense, suspenseful portrayal of the Underground Railroad that dramatically and graphically portrays the life-or-death decisions faced by slaves and the white abolitionists who aided them. These seekers and supporters of freedom, including Harriet Tubman—the most famous participant in the Underground—faced much more than a simple journey from one hiding place to the next.

DISCOVERY

Harriet Tubman, who is featured in Season 2 of **UNDERGROUND**, was called a conductor—someone who guided escapees of the Underground Railroad. In order to create an accurate picture of this courageous individual, it's important to untangle fact from fiction. Watch this brief biography of Tubman to learn more at history.com/topics/black-history/harriet-tubman/videos/harriet-tubman-and-the-UNDERGROUND-railroad and review the facts below:

- Tubman was born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland and died in Auburn, New York.
- Tubman rescued more than 300 slaves over 11 years and never lost a life.
- Tubman married a free black man.
- Tubman was narcoleptic as a result of violence she experienced while enslaved and an accident in which she was hit in the head with a lead weight.
- Tubman rescued her brother and sister.
- Tubman's nickname was "Moses" because she was so successful at leading slaves to the "Promised Land" of the North.
- Tubman assisted John Brown in recruiting individuals for his raid on Harper's Ferry.
- Tubman had a \$40,000 bounty on her head (\$1.6 million in today's dollars). On one occasion, she evaded capture by pretending to read as several men nearby saw her wanted poster, which stated that she was illiterate.
- During the Civil War, Tubman served as a nurse, a spy, and a cook.
- Tubman was buried with military honors in 1913.

Learn more about Tubman at nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/harriet-tubman

UNDERGROUND, produced by John Legend and created by Misha Green and Joe Pokaski, stars Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Aldis Hodge, Jessica De Gouw, Alano Miller, Amirah Vann, Christopher Meloni, and joining the cast in Season 2, Aisha Hinds as Harriet Tubman.

DISCUSSION

All over the world, there are individuals who risk their lives to rescue others, resist oppression, and stand up to injustice. Discuss the role played by groups like Mothers of the Movement and Black Lives Matter. Next, consider the impact of individuals like Malala Yousafzai and how her work and the work of others like her continue in the tradition of Harriet Tubman. Deliberate on the following questions:

- What qualities do individuals who are willing to risk their lives for others possess? Which of these are most important and why?
- How has resistance to oppression changed since Tubman's time?
- What is the most effective way to precipitate change in the modern world and why?
- In what ways are people in different parts of the world protesting human rights violations? Which methods have been proven to be most effective?



UNDERGROUND
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