

Unit 2 Out of the past

Harriet Tubman, Spy



Harriet Tubman was born a slave around 1820, and she escaped in 1849. A group of people who were called the Underground Railroad helped Tubman make the journey to the North, where slavery was illegal. When Tubman gained her freedom, she decided that she wanted to help other people gain theirs. She began to work with the Underground Railroad. This was not a real railroad. It was a secret way to help slaves reach the free states.

But she also served as a spy for the Union during the Civil War. Tubman decided to help the Union Army because she wanted freedom for all of the people who were forced into slavery, not just the few she could help on the Underground Railroad. And she convinced many other brave African Americans to become spies—even at the risk of being hanged if they were caught.

When the American Civil War began in 1861, Tubman joined the army to work as a nurse. She helped Colonel James Montgomery plan an attack to free enslaved people from plantations along the Combahee (pronounced “KUM-bee”) River in South Carolina. Enemy soldiers were hiding nearby. Early on the morning of June 1, 1863, three gunboats carrying several hundred soldiers along with Tubman set out on their mission. Tubman had key information from her scouts about the enemy positions. She knew where they were hiding.

They freed about 750 enslaved people—men, women, children, and babies—and did not lose one soldier in the attack. Even after slavery ended in the United States in 1865, Tubman continued to fight for the rights of Black Americans and women. She died in 1913, at the age of 90.

Adapted from: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/harriet-tubman>

Exercise 1: Choose the best answer from (a), (b) or (c).

1. Harriet Tubman escaped slavery through the _____.
 - a) Bus Connection
 - b) Slavery Route
 - c) Underground Railroad
2. Slaves found freedom in _____.
 - a) The North
 - b) The South
 - c) Europe

3. The term “underground” as used here means _____.
 - a) ugly
 - b) under the earth
 - c) secret

4. During the Civil War Harriet Tubman _____.
 - a) worked for the Confederate
 - b) worked for the Union Army
 - c) became a scout

5. After slavery ended, Harriet _____.
 - a) never went back to the South
 - b) spoke out on equal rights for Black Americans and women
 - c) died the next year

Exercise 2: Read the passage again and answer the questions.

1. Who inspired Harriet Tubman help slaves become free?

2. How did she help the Union Army?

3. How was Harriet Tubman important after the Civil War?

Exercise 3: Read the three texts below and choose the best answer for each question.

Best Board Games for History Fans

A Nikos:

I find ancient civilizations and mythology exciting, so I enjoy playing **Tzolk'in: The Mayan Calendar** with my friends and family. Thanks to this fun game, players will travel back in time to learn about the customs, gods, and pyramids of the Mayan culture. Players will have to build up the Mayan monuments while leading their Mayan tribe and try to get on the good side of the gods who can grant them favours.

2-4 players, 90' playing time.

B Rebecca:

If kids are learning about World War II, **Axis and Allies** is a must-play! Axis and Allies is a board game that is based around World War II, takes a minimum of two hours to play and is for 2-5 players, ages 12+. The theme of the game is based on the Axis powers of Germany, USSR and Japan as well as the Allies of the United Kingdom, USSR and the USA. Players will have to work together with their teammates to take control of a country and its military forces as well as the economy during the war. The winner is the team of players that has conquered key territories and holds them until the game ends.

C Rami:

Chronology is probably in my top favourite card games. It is such a simple game that is so much fun. Chronology is aimed at kids over the age of 14, but I think anyone over the age of 10 could easily play it. It is basically a game where you have to think if the date is before or after the dates you already have. What I really love is that this is such a fun history lesson without knowing it!

Adapted from: <https://gamerant.com/best-board-games-history/#tzolk-39-in-the-mayan-calendar>

		Nikos	Rebecca	Rami
1	Who likes family-friendly board games?	A	B	C
2	Who can use this board game with children of different ages?	A	B	C
3	Which game is for up to five players?	A	B	C
4	Which board game has a storyline place during various military campaigns in Europe, Asia, and Africa from 1939 to 1945?	A	B	C
5	Who enjoys board games based on mythological tales?	A	B	C
6	Who is interested in strategy, economics and teamwork?	A	B	C
7	Who likes putting historical dates in order?	A	B	C

Exercise 4: Write an email to your penfriend about your last school trip.

In your email:

- describe the place.
- say what you did.
- say what you enjoyed/ did not enjoy about it.

Write about **100 words**.

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Prepared by: Anna-Maria Andreou
Level CEFR A2

Answer Key!

Exercise 1

1. c, 2. a, 3. c, 4. b, 5. b

Exercise 2

1. Underground Railroad, 2. She planned an attack to free enslaved people, 3. She fought for the rights of Black Americans and women.

Exercise 3

1. A, 2. C, 3. B, 4. B, 5. A, 6. B, 7. C