***Unit 4: Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad***

*This lesson we are going to focus on Harriet Tubman, a former slave, and her role in the Underground Railroad. Write down two things you would like to ask Harriet Tubman in the target language.*

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2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Reading assignment 4.1 A:*** *Read the text about “Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad” below.*

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| **Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad**  Harriet Tubman was one of the most famous American women in history. She was born on March 10, 1821 in Dorchester County, Maryland, the daughter of slaves on a Maryland plantation. Her original name was Araminta Ross and she was nicknamed "Minty." From an early age she worked as a servant at the plantation house. As a teenager, she suffered a vicious head wound as she tried to protect a fellow slave from a beating. According to legend, the woman who was beating the other slave hurled a two pound weight, hitting Harriet in the head. Her injury would haunt her for the reminder of her life, resulting in periodic fainting spells.  Tubman spent her early life as a slave. In 1844, she married a free black man named John Tubman,  who would prove disloyal. Life as a slave was extremely difficult. They were forced to work in the  https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT-wfK3L5t4_VdUeikz0qV1Qpf2gq_lplNFBM0_i6WwysnoQllSUgmerciless heat without rest. They were often beaten and forced to live in poor conditions. In the early and mid-1800's, slaves were often sold to southern plantations where they would never have contact with their families again. Harriet was a particularly strong and powerful woman who could be sold for a hefty sum. Fearing that she was about to be sold, Harriet resolved to run away. Despite the brutal punishment that would be inflicted upon her if she was caught, Harriet took off in the middle of the night sometime in 1849 and headed north to freedom. She gained assistance along the way by abolitionist Quaker families who hung specially designed carpets or lights on the outside of their houses as a sign that runaway slaves were welcome and would receive help. She traveled by night through the dense woodlands of Maryland, guided north by the North Star and the moss that grew on the north side of the trees. She eventually made it to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a free city where she landed a job and saved money.  After living in Philadelphia for two years, Harriet decided to return to Maryland, in the hopes of freeing her family members. She succeeded in guiding her sister and mother to freedom along the same path that she had taken. This path became known as the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a network of woodland paths scattered throughout parts of the south that led to freedom in the north. Harriet returned again and guided her father and brother to freedom.  Soon, Harriet became known as the "conductor" on the Underground Railroad and made more daring trips to the south to guide more slaves to their freedom. Harriet devised strategies to trick various parties that tried to capture her. If she was traveling with a baby, she would use herbal drugs to ensure it didn't cry. She made sure that she traveled on Saturdays as "runaway notices" in southern newspapers could not be printed until Monday. Harriet's daring "forays" continued to elude slave hunters who were offered huge bounties for returning slaves to their owners. By 1856, a $40,000 bounty was placed on her capture - dead or alive. She became a serious threat to southern plantation owners who made large investments in their slaves. In one famous story, Harriet was close to being captured at a bus station. To avoid capture, she pulled out a book and pretended to read. Since nearly all slaves were illiterate, the hunters simply ignored her and continued their search.  By 1860, Tubman was said to have completed 19 successful journeys on the Underground Railroad, freeing as many as 300 slaves. She was never captured, nor were any of her "passengers." During the Civil War, she served as a cook, nurse, and spy for the Union army. After the war, she settled in Troy, New York, where she would die in 1913.  **Source:** [**http://mrnussbaum.com/pdfs/tubman.pdf**](http://mrnussbaum.com/pdfs/tubman.pdf) |

***Assignment 4.1 B:*** *Answer the following questions in your mother tongue.*

1. Harriet was born a slave. **True** or **False**?
2. What happened to Harriet when she was a teenager?

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1. “She married a free black man named John Tubman, -who would prove disloyal”. What does this mean?

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1. “Life as a slave was extremely difficult”. Why? Name three things.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was it that guided Harriet to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania?
6. the Quaker families
7. the North Star
8. the moon
9. the trees
10. The first time Harriet went back to save slaves, who did she save first?

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1. Name two strategies Harriet Tubman used so she wouldn’t get caught.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Harriet was almost caught at a bus station. Why wasn’t she?

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***Assignment 4.1 C:*** *Put the following sentences in the correct order according to the text.*

1. Harriet returns to the South to free her family members.
2. She became a serious threat to slave owners.
3. Harriet died in Troy, New York.
4. Harriet suffered from a terrible head wound.
5. John Tubman married Araminta Ross.
6. Harriet was almost caught at a bus station.
7. Harriet ran away to escape slavery.
8. Harriet was born on March 10, 1821 in Dorchester County, Maryland.
9. She lived in Philadelphia for two years.
10. The person who finds Harriet Tubman earns 40.000 dollars.

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