

what was harriet tubman's greatest achievement

dbq answer key

What Was Harriet Tubman's Greatest Achievement DBQ

Answer Key

Introduction

Harriet Tubman remains one of the most revered figures in American history, celebrated for her unwavering commitment to freedom and justice. When exploring her legacy through Document-Based Questions (DBQ), students are often asked to analyze her greatest achievement. The DBQ answer key serves as a guide to understanding the depth of her contributions. In this article, we will dissect her most significant accomplishment, examine the context surrounding it, and highlight why it stands as her greatest achievement.

Understanding the Significance of Harriet Tubman

Before delving into her greatest achievement, it is essential to grasp why Harriet Tubman is considered such an iconic figure.

Background and Early Life

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery around 1822 in Maryland. Her early life was marked by hardship and suffering under the brutal system of slavery. Despite these challenges, she developed a strong desire for freedom and justice.

Her Role in the Abolition Movement

Tubman's work extended beyond her personal escape; she became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, guiding hundreds of enslaved people to freedom.

The Context of Harriet Tubman's Greatest Achievement

The Abolitionist Movement and the Underground Railroad

During the 19th century, the abolitionist movement gained momentum, advocating for the end of slavery. The Underground Railroad was a secret network of safe houses and routes used by enslaved people to escape.

Risks and Challenges

Tubman faced immense danger in her efforts. She risked her life repeatedly, knowing that capture could lead to severe punishment or death.

The Impact of the Civil War

The outbreak of the Civil War provided new opportunities for Tubman to contribute directly to the Union war effort and the fight against slavery.

Harriet Tubman's Greatest Achievement

Leading Enslaved People to Freedom via the Underground Railroad

The most celebrated achievement of Harriet Tubman was her role as a conductor of the Underground Railroad, during which she personally led hundreds of enslaved individuals to freedom.

Details of Her Operations

- Number of Missions: Tubman undertook at least 13 missions to rescue enslaved families and individuals.
- Number of People Freed: It is estimated she helped free over 70 enslaved people directly, with some sources claiming the number is over 300 when including those she assisted indirectly.
- Methods: She used strategic routes, disguises, and coded communication to evade slave catchers.

Significance of This Achievement

- Risk and Courage: Her bravery in risking her life repeatedly exemplifies her dedication.
- Impact on the Abolition Movement: Her success inspired others and increased pressure on the institution of slavery.
- Symbol of Resistance: She became a symbol of hope and resilience for enslaved people and abolitionists alike.

Why Is This Considered Her Greatest Achievement?

Personal Courage and Dedication

Tubman's relentless efforts to free others demonstrated extraordinary personal bravery and commitment.

Strategic and Organizational Skills

Her ability to plan, navigate, and execute multiple rescue missions showcased her exceptional skills.

Broader Impact on Society

Her work not only freed individuals but also challenged the legitimacy of slavery, influencing public opinion and policy.

Alternative Perspectives on Harriet Tubman's Achievements

Her Role as a Civil War Nurse and Spy

While her underground railroad work is most celebrated, Tubman's later contributions during the Civil War—serving as a nurse, cook, and spy for the Union—also represent significant achievements.

Advocacy for Women's Rights

Post-war, she was an active advocate for women's suffrage, further extending her impact beyond the abolition movement.

Analysis of the DBQ Point of View

In a DBQ setting, students are encouraged to evaluate multiple perspectives. While her work on the Underground Railroad is often highlighted as her greatest achievement, some argue her military and advocacy roles were equally vital.

Developing a Strong DBQ Response

Key Components of a DBQ Answer

- Thesis Statement: Clearly state her greatest achievement.
- Use of Documents: Incorporate specific evidence from provided texts.
- Contextualization: Explain the historical background.
- Analysis: Connect her achievements to broader societal changes.
- Conclusion: Summarize why her greatest achievement stands out.

Sample Thesis Statement

Harriet Tubman's greatest achievement was her unwavering role as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, which not only directly freed hundreds of enslaved people but also symbolized the resilience and resistance of enslaved individuals and the abolitionist movement as a whole.

Conclusion

Harriet Tubman's most notable achievement—her leadership in guiding enslaved people to freedom via the Underground Railroad—embodies her courage, ingenuity, and dedication to justice. As a pivotal figure in the abolition movement, her efforts had a profound and lasting impact on American society, challenging the institution of slavery and inspiring generations of activists. When analyzing her legacy through a DBQ, her work on the Underground Railroad is rightly recognized as her greatest achievement, exemplifying her role as a fearless leader and symbol of liberation.

References and Further Reading

- Biography of Harriet Tubman from the National Park Service
- "Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her People" by Sarah Bradford

- The Underground Railroad and Its Impact on American History
- Civil War contributions of Harriet Tubman
- Articles on women's rights and abolitionism

Frequently Asked Questions

What was Harriet Tubman's most significant achievement in her abolitionist efforts?

Harriet Tubman's greatest achievement was leading numerous enslaved people to freedom through the Underground Railroad, risking her life to help others escape slavery.

How did Harriet Tubman's work on the Underground Railroad impact the abolition movement?

Her success in guiding many enslaved individuals to freedom galvanized the abolitionist movement, inspiring others and highlighting the brutality of slavery.

Why is Harriet Tubman's role in the Civil War considered a major achievement?

She served as a spy and scout for the Union Army, providing vital intelligence and participating in military operations, which significantly contributed to Union victories.

What was Harriet Tubman's influence on women's rights and social justice?

As a fearless leader and activist, she became a symbol of resistance and empowerment, advocating for women's rights and social justice throughout her life.

How did Harriet Tubman's leadership qualities contribute to her greatest achievements?

Her courage, strategic thinking, and unwavering determination enabled her to successfully lead many to freedom and serve in critical roles during the Civil War.

In what ways did Harriet Tubman's achievements impact future generations?

Her legacy of bravery and activism inspired future civil rights leaders and continues to symbolize the fight for justice and equality.

What was Harriet Tubman's most enduring legacy in American history?

Her enduring legacy is her role as a fearless leader who fought against slavery and oppression, exemplifying the power of resilience and activism.

How can understanding Harriet Tubman's greatest achievement help students appreciate her importance in history?

By learning about her achievements, students can better understand the struggles for freedom and justice, and recognize the significance of individual courage in shaping history.

Additional Resources

What Was Harriet Tubman's Greatest Achievement DBQ Answer Key

Harriet Tubman remains one of the most iconic figures in American history, celebrated for her unwavering commitment to justice and her pivotal role in the abolitionist movement. As educators, historians, and students delve into her life, one question consistently emerges: What was Harriet Tubman's greatest achievement? This inquiry often appears in Document-Based Questions (DBQs)

designed to assess understanding of her multifaceted legacy. In this comprehensive review, we will explore the key elements that contribute to answering this question, examine the significance of her accomplishments, and evaluate how her most notable achievement has been interpreted and assessed through educational resources like DBQ answer keys.

Understanding Harriet Tubman's Legacy

Before analyzing her greatest achievement, it is essential to understand the broader context of Harriet Tubman's life and work. Born into slavery around 1822 in Maryland, Tubman escaped bondage in 1849 and subsequently dedicated her life to freeing others and fighting for civil rights. Her activities spanned the Underground Railroad, the abolitionist movement, women's suffrage, and military service.

Key facets of her legacy include:

- Conductor on the Underground Railroad: Led hundreds of enslaved people to freedom.
- Advocate for Women's Rights: Supported women's suffrage and equality.
- Civil War Service: Served as a scout, spy, and nurse for the Union Army.
- Symbol of Courage and Resistance: Embodying resilience against oppression.

While each of these accomplishments is remarkable, determining her greatest achievement often involves analyzing their impact and lasting significance.

Assessing the Question: What Was Harriet Tubman's Greatest

Achievement?

In educational settings, especially in DBQ essays, students are prompted to evaluate her achievements based on historical significance, scope, and influence. The DBQ answer key provides guidance on structuring responses, emphasizing critical thinking and evidence-based reasoning.

Common themes in DBQ responses include:

- Her role in the Underground Railroad
- Her military service during the Civil War
- Her advocacy for women's suffrage
- Her influence on civil rights movements

Most answer keys suggest that students should consider multiple achievements but ultimately argue for one as her greatest, supporting their choice with specific evidence.

Analyzing the Key Candidates for Her Greatest Achievement

The Underground Railroad Conductor

One of Harriet Tubman's most celebrated achievements is her work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. She was known as "Moses" for leading enslaved people to freedom.

Significance:

- Estimated to have led over 300 slaves to freedom.

- Risked her own life repeatedly, escaping danger from slave catchers.
- Established a network of safe houses and routes.
- Inspired abolitionist movements and increased awareness of slavery's brutality.

Impact:

Her work directly challenged the institution of slavery, helping to weaken its hold and paving the way for the Civil War and subsequent emancipation.

Her Military Service in the Civil War

Harriet Tubman's service during the Civil War marked a groundbreaking role for women, particularly African American women, in military operations.

Key contributions:

- Served as a spy and scout behind enemy lines.
- Led the Combahee River Raid, freeing over 700 enslaved people.
- Carried out dangerous missions with minimal resources.
- Demonstrated strategic military acumen.

Significance:

Her military leadership broke racial and gender barriers and contributed directly to Union victories in the South.

Advocacy for Women's Rights and Suffrage

Later in life, Tubman became an advocate for women's suffrage, speaking publicly and supporting the

movement.

Achievements:

- Participated in women's rights conventions.
- Advocated for equal voting rights.
- Inspired generations of women and civil rights activists.

Impact:

Her advocacy contributed to the broader struggle for gender equality, although this aspect is often viewed as a secondary achievement compared to her abolitionist work.

Determining Her Greatest Achievement: Criteria and Perspectives

In evaluating her achievements, historians and educators often consider:

- Scope and scale: How many people were affected?
- Risk and sacrifice: Did she face danger?
- Long-term influence: Did her actions lead to lasting change?
- Historical significance: How did her achievement shape history?

Based on these criteria, many DBQ answer keys suggest that her work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad and her military service during the Civil War are the leading contenders for her greatest achievement.

The DBQ Answer Key: A Closer Look

Answer keys serve as guides for students to construct well-supported essays. They typically outline essential points and sample thesis statements.

Sample answer key points include:

- Thesis statement: Harriet Tubman's greatest achievement was her daring work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad because it directly challenged slavery, saved hundreds of lives, and inspired abolitionist efforts nationwide.

- Supporting evidence:
 - Led over 300 enslaved people to freedom.
 - Risked her life repeatedly, often escaping capture.
 - Developed a network of safe houses.
 - Inspired abolitionist movements and civil rights activism.

- Counterarguments: Some may argue her military service was equally significant, given its strategic impact during the Civil War.

- Conclusion: The answer key emphasizes synthesizing evidence to argue her greatest achievement involved her unwavering dedication and leadership in the Underground Railroad, which had profound moral and social implications.

Historical Significance and Modern Interpretation

Today, Harriet Tubman's legacy continues to evolve. Her role as a leader in escaping slavery is often celebrated as her defining achievement, symbolizing resistance, courage, and the fight for freedom.

Modern perspectives highlight:

- Her pioneering military leadership.
- Her lifelong activism beyond abolition, including women's rights.
- Her influence on civil rights movements.

Studies and educational assessments recognize that her greatest achievement is multifaceted, but her work with the Underground Railroad remains central in historical narratives and DBQ responses.

Conclusion: The Enduring Impact of Harriet Tubman's Greatest Achievement

While debates persist about which of her numerous accomplishments stands out as her greatest, most scholarly and educational sources—reflected in DBQ answer keys—support the view that her role as a conductor on the Underground Railroad represents her most significant legacy. It encapsulates her courage, strategic ingenuity, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Her work not only helped free hundreds of enslaved individuals but also challenged systemic injustice and inspired future generations in the ongoing struggle for equality. Whether viewed through the lens of abolition, military service, or advocacy, Harriet Tubman's achievements collectively define her as a true American hero whose greatest contribution continues to resonate.

In educational contexts, understanding how to craft a compelling response about her greatest achievement involves analyzing evidence critically, weighing the impact of her actions, and articulating why her work on the Underground Railroad stands out in history. The DBQ answer key thus serves as an essential resource, guiding students to appreciate the depth and significance of her enduring legacy.

What Was Harriet Tubman S Greatest Achievement Dbq Answer Key

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