

The **TIME TRAVEL ADVENTURES** of **ARA**

**HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**



**Resource and Study Kit for Teachers
and Educators**

This kit is designed for educators to integrate "The Time Travel Adventures of Ara: Harriet Tubman and The Underground Railroad" into their curriculum, focusing on history, social studies, and language arts.

- **Book Information:**

- Title, Author, Illustrator, Series Context.
- Target Grade Level: Approximately Grade Four, as Ara is nine years old and in Grade Four.
- Author's Background: Channon Oyeniran is a historian, geographer, public speaker, and Black History consultant, passionate about educating youth about Black History.
- Key Themes: Black Canadian history, the Underground Railroad, the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman, slavery and abolition, courage and social justice, family heritage, and the concept of time travel for historical exploration.

• Curriculum Connections (Examples for Ontario Curriculum):

- Social Studies (e.g., Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, 1780-1850):

- The Underground Railroad: Students can learn about its purpose, routes, and key figures like Harriet Tubman. Discuss Canada West (Ontario) as a destination for freedom-seekers.

- Harriet Tubman's Legacy: Explore her roles as a conductor, nurse, spy, scout, and abolitionist. Note that March 10th is Harriet Tubman Day.

- Slavery: Understand its impact on individuals and families, contrasting 1860 with 2022.

- St. Catharines' Historical Significance: Learn about the town's role in supporting freedom-seekers and sites like Salem Chapel BME and the Refugee Slaves' Friend Society.

- Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Oral Communication):

- Reading Comprehension: Analyze plot, character development, setting, and themes. Use text features like the table of contents and glossary.

- Vocabulary Development: Introduce and define historical terms (e.g., conductor, agent, freedom-seeker, kinfolk, bondage, drinking gourd, promised land, schooner) using the book's glossary.

- Creative Writing: Students can write their own historical fiction narratives, inspired by Ara's March Break assignment.

- Oral Presentations: Students can research and present on a historical figure or event, mimicking Ara's presentation on Harriet Tubman.

- Character Education: Discuss courage, empathy, resilience, standing up for what is right, and the importance of helping others.

• Lesson Plan Ideas:

- Pre-Reading: Introduce concepts of time travel and historical fiction. Brainstorm what life might have been like in 1860. Locate St. Catharines and Niagara Falls on a map.

- During Reading:

- Character Journals: Students track Ara's feelings and observations as he experiences 1860.

- Historical Context Clues: Identify details that differentiate 1860 from 2022 (e.g., clothing, transportation, absence of video games).

- Problem-Solving: Discuss the challenges Ara and Sam face during their mission and how they overcome them.

- Post-Reading Activities:

- Research Project: Students research other Black historical figures mentioned in the series (Mathieu Da Costa, Nanny of the Maroons) or specific aspects of the Underground Railroad.

- "Museum Exhibit" Creation: Students create mini-exhibits on the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman, or 1860s life, incorporating facts from the book.

- Debate: "Is it important to learn about difficult historical events like slavery?"

- Guest Speaker: Invite a local historian or a member of a Black history society to speak about the Underground Railroad in Canada.

- "Then and Now" Comparison: Create a chart comparing aspects of life in 1860 (as depicted in the book) and 2022.

- **Assessment:**

- Reading comprehension questions.
- Vocabulary quizzes.
- Written reports or essays on historical figures/events.
- Oral presentations or debates.
- Creative projects (e.g., a "Freedom Quilt" depicting various elements of the Underground Railroad).

Downloadable Resources: To support diverse programming, institutions can utilize free downloadable colouring sheets available on the book's website for children's activities. Additionally, a more detailed book brief can be downloaded for staff training, exhibit research, and public information materials.