

Name: _____ Date: _____

Central Ideas and Details

A central idea of a text is one of the main points the author is making.

(Sometimes a central idea is called a main idea.)

A central idea can always be supported with details from the text.

Directions: Follow the prompts below to explore the central ideas and supporting details in "Escape From Slavery."

1. Read the central idea of the sections "Stolen Away" and "Slavery in America" stated in the box below. Then check the boxes next to the THREE details that best support the central idea.

Central Idea:
Slavery was cruel and dehumanizing.

- "Rit and Benjamin's owner, Edward Brodess, didn't believe that selling the girls was wrong though." (p. 6)
- "Try to imagine the horror of it: having family members stolen away from you, never to see or hear from them again." (p. 6)
- "Tubman carried scars from these beatings for the rest of her life." (p. 7)
- "Plantation owners relied on slaves for cheap labor." (p. 7)
- "Slaves labored from sunup to sundown planting and harvesting wheat, tobacco, cotton, and other crops . . . Even young children were put to work." (p. 7)

2. Read the details from the article listed below. In the box, complete the central idea that these details support.

Central Idea:
Harriet Tubman was _____

Detail 1: "In all, Tubman led 13 rescue missions, freeing 70 to 80 people." (p. 9)

Detail 2: "Yet on that frigid night, the person leading this group was unafraid. Her name was Harriet Tubman, and she had made this journey many times before." (p. 6)

Detail 3: "I had reasoned this out in my mind; there was one of two things I had a right to—liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other." (p. 7)