

Summary: Our Heroes

Courageous Heroes

Brave people have done important work for our country. They are American heroes. Some heroes have left us with a legacy of freedom.

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery but escaped. Then she helped other slaves find freedom. She led them on a secret escape route called the Underground Railroad. She also worked and raised money to help free others.

Abraham Lincoln said that no one should be enslaved. He believed in justice. When he became President of the United States, the North and South did not agree about slavery. The South wanted to leave the nation and continue slavery. Lincoln and the North wanted the country to stay together. During the war, President Lincoln said that all slaves were free.

Americans with New Ideas

Thomas Edison was an inventor. His ideas helped many people. He found a way to make electric light bulbs glow for hours. He also thought of ways to get electricity to people's homes. They did not need to use gas lamps or candles for light anymore.

Helen Keller also had new ideas. She was blind and deaf, but she learned to read and write. Keller believed in education for deaf and blind people. She worked hard to spread her ideas.

Maya Lin is an artist. She shares her ideas through sculptures. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., is her most famous work. It honors Americans who died in the Vietnam War.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

legacy *noun*, something passed on to later generations

justice *noun*, fairness



After You Read

REVIEW In what ways did Tubman and Lincoln work for freedom? Underline the sentences that tell how Tubman and Lincoln worked for freedom.

REVIEW In what way did Edison's ideas help people? Underline two sentences that tell about things Edison did to help people.