Warm Up/Review Questions Using First Day Cover
Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman is the first African American woman but not the first African American to be honored on a stamp. (Booker T. Washington was the first African American to be honored on a stamp issued on April 7, 1940).

Show the STAMP (Image A) and ask students to identify this woman. Who was she?

Next ask students to analyze the First Day Cover (Image B), and answer the question, “Who was Harriet Tubman?”

What words or images from the First Day Cover support their answer?

In February 1978, the United States Post Office began its Black Heritage stamp series. Why would the Post Office choose Harriet Tubman to begin that series?

From the FDC can you learn that she lived from 1819(?) to March 10, 1913, or that she:

• was a runaway slave from Mayland?
• became a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad returning many times to Maryland help other slaves flee to freedom?
• worked with many Quakers who helped her along the Underground Railroad?
• took her family to St. Catherine’s Ontario Canada to ensure they would not be returned into slavery under the Fugitive Slave Act?
• worked with other abolitionists to end slavery legally?
• served as a nurse and spy for the Union Army during the Civil War?
• New York Senator William O. Seward bought her a home in Auburn, N.Y.?
• after the Civil War she built and maintained a home for elderly former slaves?

Conclusion: Since most of the information students learned about Harriet Tubman came from the ARTWORK, ask them to draw a new stamp for Harriet Tubman, paying tribute to one of her many contributions.

A brief biography of Tubman can be found on the Library of Congress site http://www.loc.gov/topics/africanamericans/featured/tubman.html

The Harriet Tubman Historical Society in Wilmington, Delaware worked for March 10, 1990 to be declared Harriet Tubman Day. Senator Joe Biden of Delaware worked the declaration through Congress and President George H.W. Bush issued Proclamation Number 6107 to celebrate Harriet Tubman Day – March 10, 1990. To read the Proclamation go to http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=1823

The Post Office issued a second stamp honoring Harriet Tubman on June 29, 1995. If students wish to compare their “new” Tubman stamp to this one, go to http://www.esperstamps.org/history3.htm

National Standards United States History Era 4 Standard 2 & 4
TEKS 8.7
OFFICIAL
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

HONORING
Harriet Tubman
1821-1913
ABOLITIONIST • NURSE • ESCAPED SLAVE
BLACK HERITAGE USA SERIES

SHE GUIDED MORE THAN 300 SLAVES TO FREEDOM

WASHINGTON D.C.
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