

Student Information Sheet: Historic Heroes

Freedom Fighters from Brazil to the U.S.



Although the great Brazilian leader Zumbi was born free, at age 6 he was captured by the Portuguese. He escaped at 15 and returned to Palmares, a self-sustaining community of over 20,000 free Africans (c. 1655). By the time he was in his twenties, he was a respected military strategist. Zumbi wanted complete abolition of enslavement and not just the partial freedom for his community. Zumbi assumed leadership and the attacks against Palmares worsened. Zumbi continued to fight the Portuguese army until his death. November 20 is the day of Afro-Brazilian Consciousness honoring Zumbi.



William Lambert was a free African American born in 1817. Lambert began serving as a conductor on the Underground Railroad at the age of 15. He moved to Detroit at the age of 18 and continued his Underground Railroad activities. He became one of Detroit's successful businessmen and political leaders. He helped organize the U.S. 102 Colored Citizens of Michigan and gave financial support to John Brown's Harper Ferry Raid. He was also a co-founder of St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Detroit (UR stop). Though he was born free, he dedicated his life to freedom of all.



Harriet Tubman was born enslaved in 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland and experienced an extremely cruel childhood. In 1849, she ran away and escaped by hiding during the day and following the North Star by night. Harriet returned to the South nineteen times and guided over 300 enslaved African Americans to freedom during a ten-year period. In 1851-1857, Tubman made eleven trips from Maryland to Canada. A \$40,000 reward was offered for her capture. She became known as "Moses of her people" because she led so many to freedom.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? ? ?

How do we promote peace and freedom in our lives? Do you know anyone who inspires awe and respect?