


Sojourner Truth Worksheets

Name: _____


Ain't I a Woman?




In 1851, Sojourner Truth delivered her extemporaneous speech at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention. Look for her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech in the questions below.

Name: _____

Isabella's Biography



Sojourner Truth was born as Isabella Baumfree and became one of the most powerful abolitionists of her time. Can you write her biographical narrative about her?



EARLY LIFE

As an Abolitionist

Name: _____

In Memoriam



Truth was in the very first group of women inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Various monuments were built in her honor. In addition, NASA named its Mars rover "Sojourner." Now, compose a poem highlighting Oprah Winfrey's statement about Truth and other famous African-Americans.





"I have crossed over on the backs of **Sojourner Truth** and Harriet Tubman and Fannie Lou Hamer and Madame C.J. Walker. Because of them I can now live the **dream**. I am the **seed** of the **free**, and I know it. I intend to bear **great fruit**."
-Oprah Winfrey

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Sojourner Truth Facts



Sojourner Truth was an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist famous for her speech "*Ain't I a Woman?*" delivered in 1851 during the Ohio Women's Rights Convention.

Early Life

- ★ Sojourner Truth was born as Isabella Baumfree in 1797, on the Colonel Johannes Hardenbergh estate in Swartekill, New York.
- ★ Her parents were Elizabeth and James Baumfree and both were slaves. She had 12 siblings.
- ★ At the age of 9, she was sold to John Neeley, along with a herd of sheep for \$100.

Sojourner Truth Facts



Hardenbergh estate in New York

★ Sojourner Truth only spoke Dutch until she was sold to the Neeley family. They only spoke English and she learned to speak English quickly because she was severely beaten when she didn't understand what the family was saying. She was sold several times after that and treated very badly.

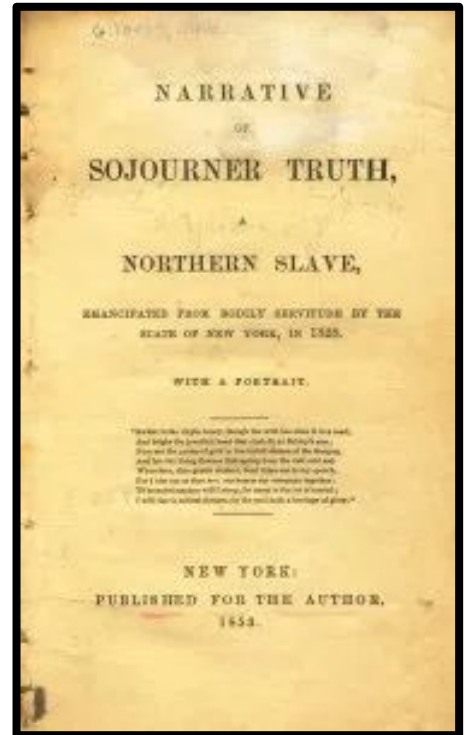
- ★ She was forced to marry an older slave named Thomas and they had four children: Peter, James, Elizabeth and Sophia.
- ★ Dumont, her last owner, promised Sojourner freedom, but broke his promise. She left one morning with her infant daughter, Sophia.
- ★ She wandered, praying for direction, and came to the home of Isaac and Maria Van Wageningen. Dumont found her and wanted to take her baby. When she refused to leave with him, the Van Wageningen's paid Dumont \$20 for her and she remained with them until state emancipation on July 4, 1827.
- ★ Sojourner Truth had a life-changing religious experience while living with the Van Wageningen family. She became an amazing preacher and she eventually became a traveling preacher. In later years, she became a political activist, fighting for the freedom of slaves and women's rights.

Photo from <http://www.bookofdaystales.com/tag/sojourner-truth/>

Sojourner Truth Facts

Sojourner Truth's Legacy

- ★ In 1844, she joined the Northampton Association of Education and Industry in Massachusetts. The organization was founded by abolitionists promoting women's rights and religious tolerance. She met Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and David Ruggles who were famous abolitionists.



- ★ By 1850, *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave* was published. Olive Gilbert wrote the memoir while Truth dictated every word of it.
- ★ After a year, she joined George Thompson in his lectures. In May, Truth attended the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, where she delivered her famous extemporaneous speech "*Ain't I a Woman?*"
- ★ For ten years, Truth spoke in numerous lectures. She travelled from New York to Michigan and other states. In 1853, she met Harriet Beecher Stowe.
- ★ Sojourner Truth died on November 26, 1883, in Battle Creek Michigan, at the age of 86. She has been honored many times since her death.

Name: _____

Isabella's Biography



Sojourner Truth was born as Isabella Baumfree. She escaped slavery and became one of the leading abolitionists of her time. Can you write her a short biographical narrative about her?



EARLY LIFE

As an Abolitionist

Name: _____

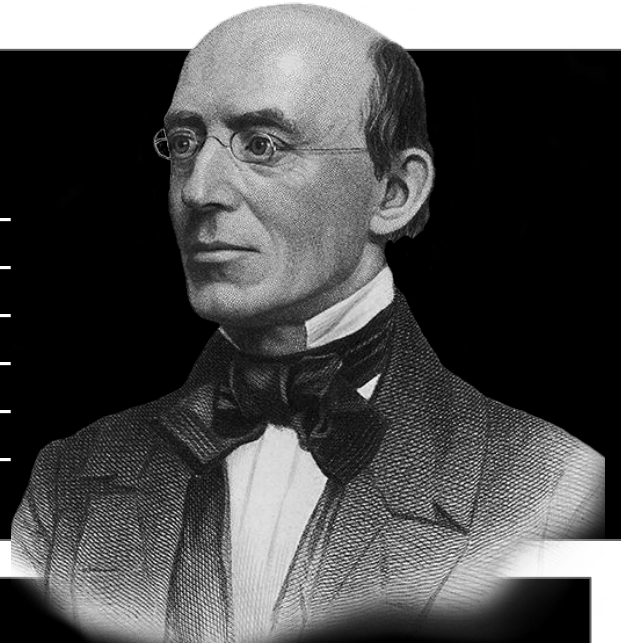
Contemporaries



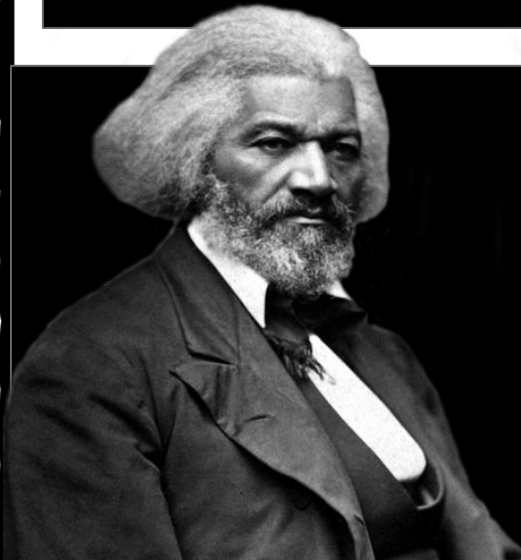
Pictured below are some of Truth's contemporaries fighting to end slavery. Identify their influence and role in the abolition of slavery in America. Do additional research if necessary.

ABOLITIONISTS

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON



FREDERICK DOUGLASS



Name: _____

Sojourner's Journey



Let us retrace the journey of Sojourner Truth by providing details on the clues below. Be as specific as possible.



1797



Wagenen
Family



1850



Ohio Women's
Rights
Convention



Name: _____

Behind Truth



Look for the terms related to Sojourner Truth's life and do not forget to explain why it is relevant and important.

N D F G A R E R A C
E Q U A L I T Y G H
W J K L S G G F B Y
Y O H I O H E H Z
O S M R T T W S N
R X E E G S T O W E
K W F A N G A G W F
V G H A W F A G T C
U D O U G L A S S I
S L A V E R Y K P O



Behind Truth



ANSWER KEY

N D F G A R E R A C
E Q U A L I T Y G H
W J K L S G G F B Y
Y O H I O H E H Z
O S M R T T W S N
R X E E G S T O W E
K W F A N G A G W F
V G H A W F A G T C
U D O U G L A S S I
S L A V E R Y K P O

New York	Slavery
Equality	Rights
Women	Stowe
Douglass	Ohio



Name: _____

Ain't I a Woman?



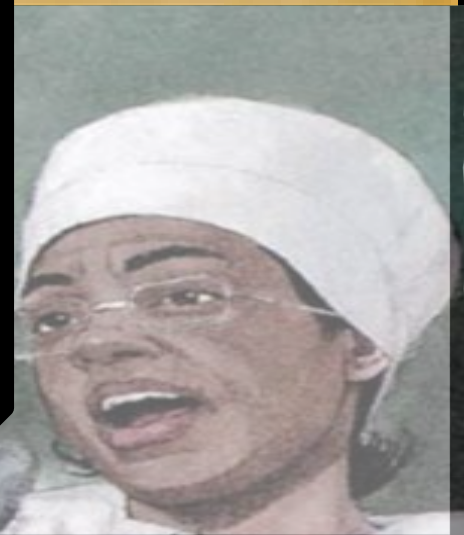
In 1851, Sojourner Truth delivered her extemporaneous speech at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention. Look for her "*Ain't I a Woman?*" speech online to answer the guide questions below.

"What's that to do with women's rights or negroes' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?"

1. What was the speech about?

2. What are the main points presented by Truth?

3. Describe its significance to America's history.

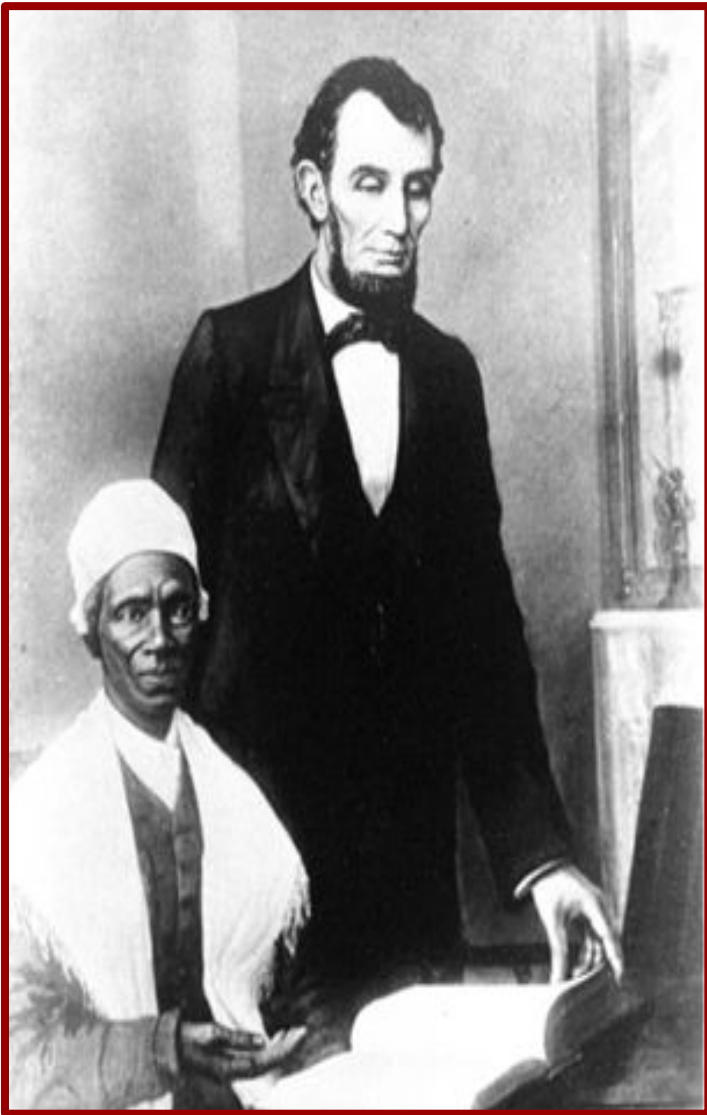


Name: _____

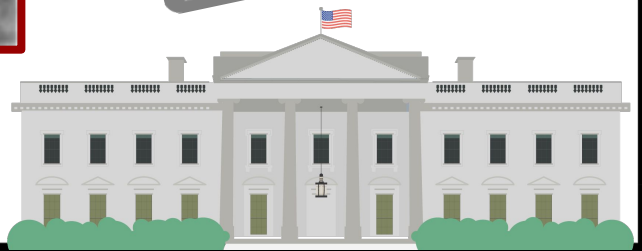
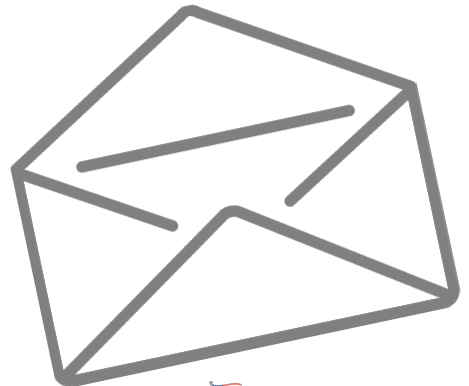
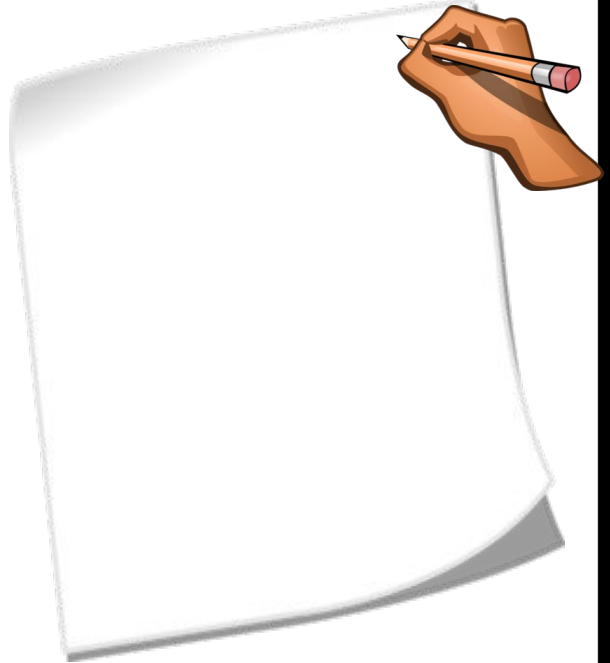
With the President



On October 29, 1864, Sojourner Truth travelled to Washington D.C. to meet President Abraham Lincoln. Together with Lucy Colman, Truth had the chance to tell her story. Now, think of one big issue in your country and address your president about it.



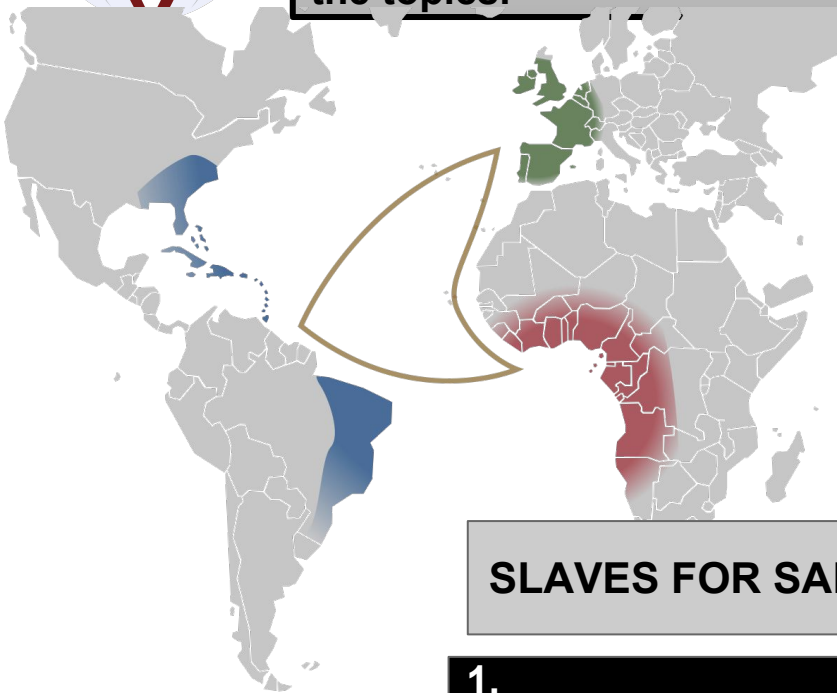
Painting by Franklin C. Courter showing the meeting of Sojourner Truth and President Abraham Lincoln



Name: _____

Slavery 101

Truth's advocacy, along with Tubman, Douglass, Garrison, and other civil rights activists and abolitionists, was to eliminate slavery and promote equality. Let us look back at what slavery was all about. For each item, write terms that can explain the topics.



TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

SLAVES FOR SALE

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



TO BE SOLD OR LET
BY PUBLIC AUCTION
On MONDAY the 18th of MAY, 1829.
UNDER THE TREES.

FOR SALE
THE THREE FOLLOWING
SLAVES

HANNIBAL, about 30 Years old, an excellent House Servant and of Good Character;
WILLIAM, about 35 Years old, a Labourer;
SANCY, an excellent House Servant and Nurse.
The MEN belonging to "LEITCH'S" Estate, and the WOMAN to Mrs. D. SMITH

TO BE LET
On the usual conditions of the Hiring Office, in Food, Clothing & Medical Attendance
THE FOLLOWING

**MALE AND FEMALE
SLAVES**

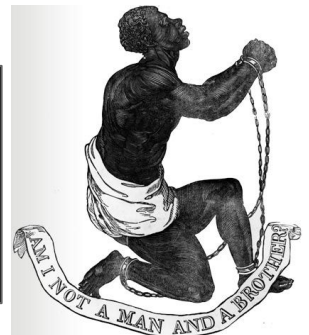
OF GOOD CHARACTER,
ROBERT, BLACK, about 20 Years old, a good House Servant;
WILLIAM, BLACK, about 15 Years old, a Labourer;
JOHN, BLACK, about 10 Years old, a Labourer;
JAMES, BLACK, about 8 Years old, a Labourer;
PAUL, an excellent House Servant, of a Labourer;
HARRIS, about 20 Years old, a good House Servant;
MILLY, a young Woman of good Character, used to Blow Wing, & Sew, an excellent Housemaid;
JANE, an excellent Housemaid;
FANNY, about 18 Years old, House servant;
MARTIN, about 16 Years old, House Servant.

ALSO FOR SALE AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK,
RICE, GRAIN, PADDY, BOOKS, MUSLINS, NEEDLES, PINS,
HERRING, &c. &c.

AT ONE O'CLOCK, THAT CELEBRATED ENGLISH HORSE
BLUCHER.

SLAVES AT WORK

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Name: _____

Women in Black History



Find a photo and write a short narrative about some of the women who contributed to the history of black people in the United States.



WOMEN IN BLACK HISTORY

Name: _____

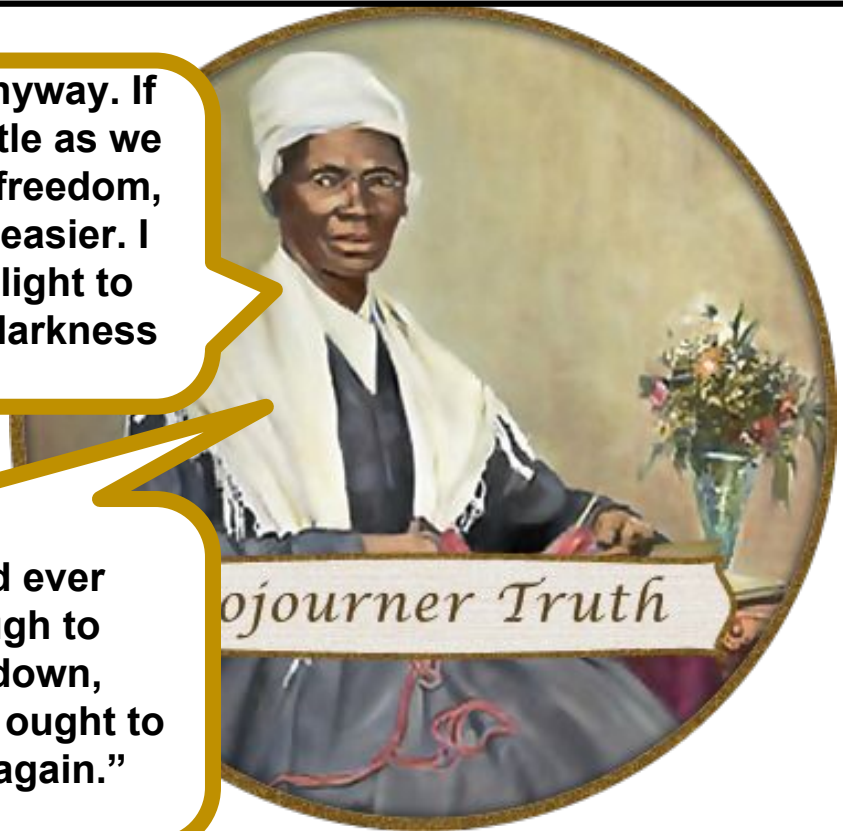
Truth Says



Sojourner Truth spent years giving speeches and lectures promoting racial equality and women's rights. Some of her quotes are given below, can you describe what she meant?

“Life is a hard battle anyway. If we laugh and sing a little as we fight the good fight of freedom, it makes it all good go easier. I will not allow my life's light to be determined by the darkness around me.”

“If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down, these women together ought to be able to turn it right again.”



1

2

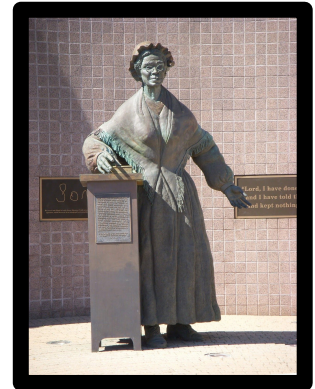
Name: _____

In Memoriam



Truth was in the very first group of women inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Various monuments were built in her honor. In addition, NASA named its Mars rover "Sojourner." Now, compose a poem highlighting Oprah Winfrey's statement about Truth and other famous African-Americans.





*"I have crossed over on the backs of **Sojourner Truth** and Harriet Tubman and Fannie Lou Hamer and Madame C.J. Walker. Because of them I can now live the **dream**. I am the **seed** of the **free**, and I know it. I intend to bear **great fruit**."*

-Oprah Winfrey

SOJOURNER TRUTH

Worksheets

Freedman's Village

After the Civil War ended, Sojourner Truth traveled to Virginia. She visited Freedman's Village, a camp set up by the United States Army for freed slaves. Black women had only been trained for work in the fields. Some of them didn't know how to sew, clean house, do laundry, or even care for their children. Sojourner and her grandson spent a year in the village teaching the black women basic skills. She also encouraged them to get an education.

What are the basic skills you know?

DRAWING CHALLENGE

Without the convenience of machines, basic skills were made manual. Your task is to draw how these chores or skills were accomplished.

Laundry jobs without machines.

Sewing without sewing machines.

Legacy

the blanks in this summary of

stopped
stories
Fame

can
st
in



POETIC FREE

Poetic freedom i
his thoughts and
define freedom

hall of _____ the very first
into the National



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Freedom Endeavors

Word Search

Finish the Story

You are encouraged to use other resources to broaden your knowledge.

Name: _____

Let us talk about...

SOJOURNER TRUTH



Sojourner Truth was an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist. She was born into slavery in Swartekill, Ulster County, New York, but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. After going to court to recover her son, she became the first black woman to win such a case against a white man.

[For more information on Sojourner Truth, see the fact file below.](#)



As a child, Sojourner was called “Belle” by her parents. She was taught by her mom to say the Lord’s Prayers every night and was told to depend on him in times of troubles. One of the lessons she was taught among her siblings was to be truthful and not steal. Most importantly, always try to obey her masters.



- Sojourner Truth’s real name was Isabella Baumfree.
- She was born in 1797, on the Colonel Johannes Hardenbergh estate in Swartekill, New York.
- Her parents were Elizabeth and James Baumfree and both were also slaves. She had 12 siblings.
- She was sold at the age of 9 to John Neeley, along with a herd of sheep for \$100.
- Sojourner Truth only spoke Dutch until she was sold to the Neeley family. They only spoke English and she learned to speak English quickly because she was severely beaten when she didn’t understand what the family was saying. She was sold several times after that and treated very badly
- She was forced to marry an older slave named Thomas and they had four children: Peter, James, Elizabeth, and Sophia
- Dumont, her last owner, promised Sojourner freedom, but broke his promise. She left one morning with her infant daughter, Sophia.



- She wandered, praying for direction, and came to the home of Isaac and Maria Van Wageningen. Dumont found her and wanted to take her baby when she refused to leave with him, the Van Wageningen's paid Dumont \$20 for her and she remained with them until state emancipation on July 4, 1827
- Sojourner Truth had a life-changing religious experience while living with the Van Wageningen family. She became an amazing preacher and she eventually became a traveling preacher. In later years she became a political activist, fighting for the freedom of slaves and women's rights.
- Sojourner Truth died on November 26, 1883, in Battle Creek Michigan, at the age of 86. She has been honored many times since her death.



To honor Sojourner, a memorial and a statue were made for her heroism.

Meeting the President

Sojourner Truth once traveled to Washington, D.C., where she met with Abraham Lincoln at the White House.



Abraham Lincoln with Sojourner Truth in an painting by Franklin C. Courter, made circa 1893.

On September 22 1862, Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, in which he declared that as of January 1, 1863, all slaves in states in rebellion against the Union "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

By war's end, some 200,000 black men would serve in the Union Army and Navy, striking a mortal blow against the institution of slavery and paving the way for its eventual abolition by the 13th Amendment.

Meeting the heads of states is a very rare opportunity. If you were to meet yours, what concerns would you want him to address?

Your head of state: _____
(President/Prime Minister/King etc...)

Who will benefit? _____
Your specific Request:

Fighting for Abolition

On June 1, 1843, Isabella Baumfree changed her name to Sojourner Truth, devoting her life to Methodism and the abolition of slavery. She soon began touring regularly with abolitionist George Thompson, speaking to large crowds on the subjects of slavery and human rights. She was one of several escaped slaves, along with Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, to rise to prominence as an abolitionist leader and a testament to the humanity of enslaved people.

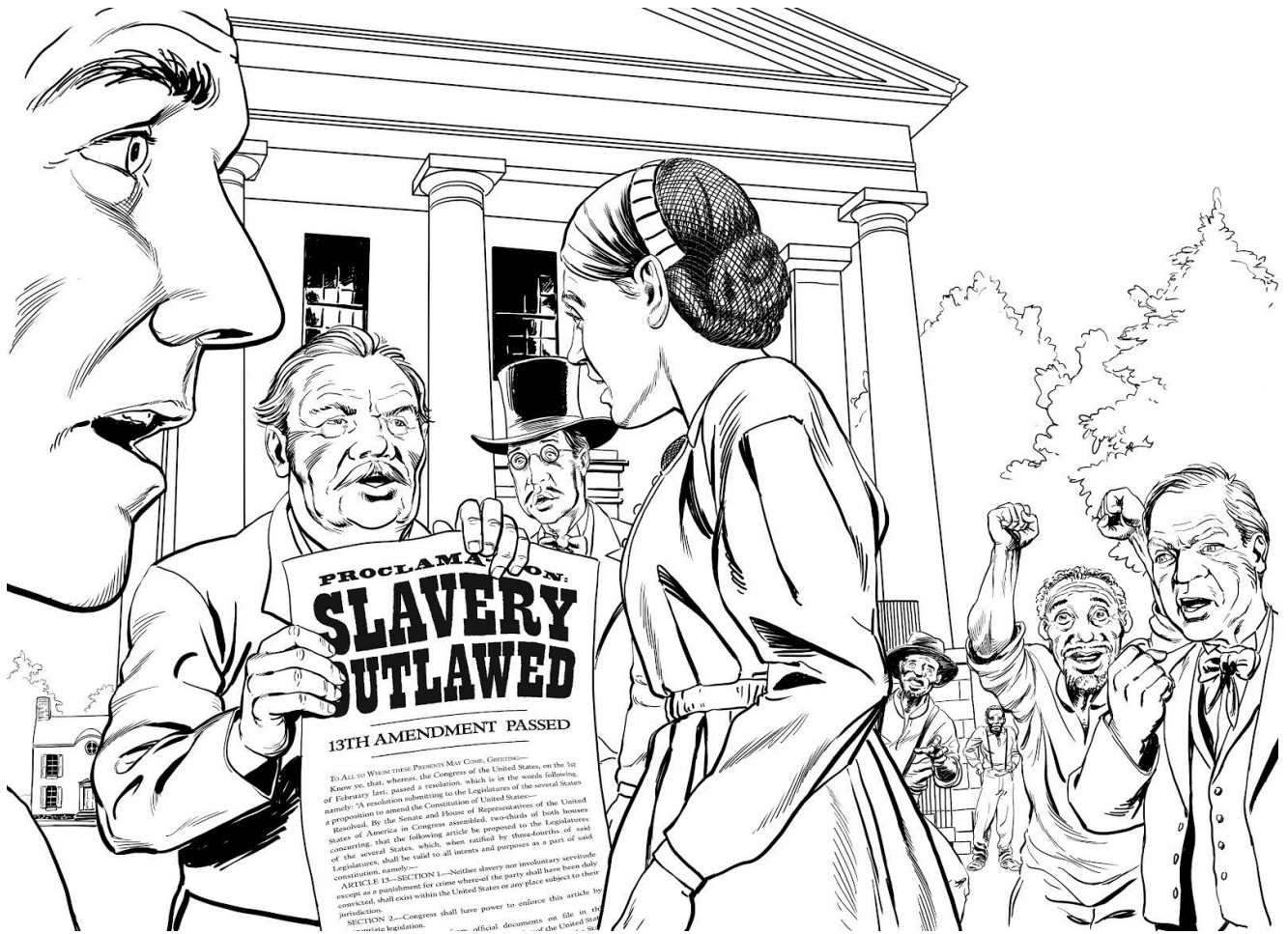
RESEARCH

Who is an abolitionist?

What do abolitionists fight for?

Is slavery acceptable in this generation? Why?

COLORING ACTIVITY



The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially abolished slavery in America, and was ratified on December 6, 1865, after the conclusion of the American Civil War. The amendment states: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Promoting Women's Rights

In May of 1851, Truth delivered a speech at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron. The extemporaneous speech, recorded by several observers, would come to be known as:

COLOR ME!

"Ain't I a Woman?"

Below is an excerpt of her speech:

"I want to say a few words about this matter. I am a woman's rights. I have as much muscle as any man, and can do as much work as any man. I have plowed and reaped and husked and chopped and mowed, and can any man do more than that? I have heard much about the sexes being equal. I can carry as much as any man, and can eat as much too, if I can get it. I am as strong as any man that is now...xxx"

What was she trying to convey to the listeners?

Truth and the Civil War

In 1857, Sojourner Truth moved with two of her daughters to Battlecreek, Michigan. Four years later, the first shots of the Civil War were fired. Michigan formed troops of black soldiers. Sojourner raised money and brought boxes of supplies to the black soldiers at Camp Ward. She spent hours talking with the soldiers and singing songs to them.



Sojourner Truth claimed to have written this song during the American Civil War for the 1st Michigan Colored Regiment, and it was sung by her in Detroit and Washington. Can you identify few spelling mistakes, circle the words? Rewrite the correct words.

WE are the valiant soldiers who've 'listed for the war;
We are fihting for the Union, we are fighting for the law;
We can shoot a rebel frtther than a white man ever saw,
As we go marching on.

Chorus
Glory, glory, halelujah! Glory, glory, halleluja!
Glory, glory, halleluyah, as we go marching on.

Look there above the center, where the flag is waving
brayght;
We are going out of slavry, we are baund for freedom's light;
We mein to show Jeff Davis how the Africans can fight,
As we go murching on.

We are done with hoeing cotton, we ar done with hoeing
corn;
We are colored Yankee suldiers as sere as you are born.
when massa hears us shawting, he will think 'tis Gabriel's
horn,
As we go murching on.

VOCABULARY QUIZ

Match the vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right. Put the letter for the definition on the blank next to the vocabulary word it matches. Use each word and definition only once.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. ___ Emancipation | A. The quality or state of being true |
| 2. ___ Freedom | B. A war between citizens of the same country |
| 3. ___ Sojourn | C. The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants |
| 4. ___ Truth | D. Deliver a sermon or religious address to an assembled group of people |
| 5. ___
Extemporaneous
Speech | E. The official power to make legal decisions and judgements |
| 6. ___ Jurisdiction | F. The freeing of someone from slavery |
| 7. ___ Prominence | G. The state of being important, famous, or noticeable |
| 8. ___ Civil War | H. A minor change or addition designed to improve a text, piece of legislation |
| 9. ___ Preach | I. is an impromptu speech that is given without any special advance preparation and is delivered without the help of notes. |
| 10. ___ Amendment | J. To stay somewhere temporarily |

POETIC FREEDOM

Poetic freedom is freedom of imagination the poet is granted to express his thoughts and feelings. Through a poem, how would you express and define **freedom** in your country?



Freedman's Village

After the Civil War ended, Sojourner Truth traveled to Virginia. She visited Freedman's Village, a camp set up by the United States Army for freed slaves. Black women had only been trained for work in the fields. Some of them didn't know how to sew, clean house, do laundry, or even care for their children. Sojourner and her grandson spent a year in the village teaching the black women basic skills. She also encouraged them to get an education.

What are the basic skills you know?

DRAWING CHALLENGE

Without the convenience of machines, basic skills were made manual. Your task is to draw how these chores or skills were accomplished.

Laundry jobs without machines.

Sewing without sewing machines.

Freedom Endeavors

In 1870, Truth tried to secure land grants from the federal government to former slaves, a project she pursued for seven years without success. While in Washington, D.C., she had a meeting with President Ulysses S. Grant in the White House. In 1872, she returned to Battle Creek and tried to vote in the presidential election, but was turned away at the polling place.

WORD SEARCH

There are six hidden words in the chart below. These words are what Truth fights for. Unscramble the words first and circle them. Enjoy!

L	O	V	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	R
B	E	P	R	E	A	C	S	N	I	O
	W	L	I	F	T	F	V	U	S	
	O	E	G	O		W	O	G	S	
	M	R	H	R		Q	D	C	I	
	E	I	T	M	Y	O	N	A	O	
E	N	Z	S	I	H	T	A	R	N	L
H	B	N	O	I	T	I	L	O	B	A

MWEON _____

FORMRE _____

ALBOITINO _____

RITGHS _____

FEERDMO _____

DNAL _____

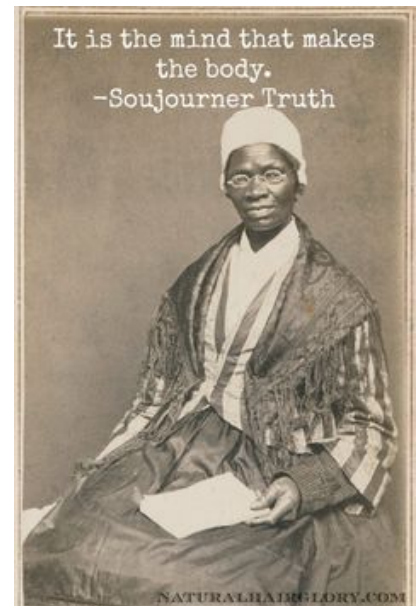
Her Legacy

FINISH THE STORY

Use words from the box to fill in the blanks in this summary of Truth's life.

Suffrage	woman	stopped
Sojourner	son	stories
abolitionist	slavery	Fame

Sojourner Truth was an African American _____ who became the first black _____ to successfully sue and win the case against a white man to recover her _____ who had been illegally sold into slavery. She took up the name _____ Truth and promoted about abolition of _____. She was also a campaigner for women's rights. She spoke to the American Equal Rights Association in 1867 and continued to fight for the right to _____ among the black people. Sojourner was an important leader in the fight to end slavery. Her _____ and speeches helped people to understand how immoral slavery was and that it must be _____. She was in the very first group of women inducted into the National Women's Hall of _____.



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Thank you

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