

# Black History Month

## SOJOURNER TRUTH



### SOJOURNER TRUTH

**EARLY LIFE**

Sojourner Truth, originally named Isabella Baumfree, entered the world around 1775 on a New York farm, marking the beginning of a life filled with hardship. Born into slavery, Isabella had at least ten siblings, but the cruel practice of selling slaves like property shattered the bonds of family. Herself at the tender age of nine to her former John Neely exposed her to the harsh reality of slavery.

Growing up in a Dutch settlement, Isabella spoke only Dutch. Unfortunately, Neely, an English Farmer, expressed discontent over her linguistic limitations, subjecting her to frequent beatings. Underneath by the abuse, Isabella displayed remarkable intelligence, quickly learning English by listening to discussions around her. Despite enduring the challenges of being sold four times around her, she remained resilient. Her final owner, John Dumont, treated her comparatively better, as he renounced with her for sixteen years.

A policy of familial separation persisted, as Dumont denied Isabella the opportunity to marry her love, Robert. Instead, she was coerced into a union with another slave, Thomas, solely for the purpose of ensuring her children belonged to Dumont. Amid the trials of raising five children, the constant fear of them being taken away and sold loomed over her, casting a shadow on what should have been the warmth of maternal love.

**FAMILY TIES AND STRUGGLES**

Sojourner Truth's journey was marked by the profound struggles of a slave woman. Facing a loss with a family bonds when the harsh confines of slavery tore apart her loved ones. Fellow slave named Robert, Sojourner's hopes of building a family were dashed when her owner, John Dumont, forbade their union. Instead, he forced her to marry another slave, Thomas, with the intention of ensuring her children belonged to his property. Despite giving birth to five children, Sojourner's joy was overshadowed by the constant fear of separation.

Tragedy struck when one of her children died shortly after birth, intensifying the emotional toll on Sojourner. The plight of enslaved families was further exacerbated by the arbitrary sale of children, a

... painful reality where siblings were often torn apart and sold like property. Despite Dumont's comparatively milder treatment during her last years with him, the oppressive institution of slavery continued to cast its long shadow over Sojourner Truth's family life.

Her poignant struggles in a ...

... of a system that treated ... hanging by the fragile ... silence in the face of ... a strength that family ... nances.

... st owner had promised ... backtracked on his ... Sojourner. Fueled by ... confines of slavery ... pained by her infant ... held her captive for ...

... who vehemently ... amount discovered her ... moment, an ... fer were purchased for ...

... life of servitude were ... certain but liberating ... Dumont ... e a testament to ... break the chains that ...

... her son Peter ... went to court, ... chary brought Peter ... fine where slaves ...

... the life ... ing ... that ... symbol ... penny ... only ... for ... had ...

### SOJOURNER TRUTH

Comprehension Questions

**CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.**

Sojourner Truth's birth name?  
 a. Baumfree  
 b. Truth  
 c. Isabella  
 d. Baumfree

Sojourner Truth learn English quickly during her childhood?  
 a. John Neely?  
 b. Dumont  
 c. English lessons  
 d. beatings for not knowing English

Sojourner Truth had ... English-speaking siblings.

Sojourner Truth's last owner before going to the farm?  
 a. Neely  
 b. Robert  
 c. Dumont  
 d. Van Wageningen

Why did Sojourner Truth have to worry about them?  
 a. children, fear of illness  
 b. children, fear of separation and sale  
 c. children, fear of educational challenges  
 d. children, fear of being taken away

Sojourner Truth's decision to escape to the farm?  
 a. working conditions  
 b. fear of separation  
 c. human cruelty of Freedom ...

**NO-PREP & EDITABLE**

# READING COMPREHENSION

# READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

# Ready to Print & Editable



## SOJOURNER TRUTH

### EARLY LIFE

Sojourner Truth, originally named Isabella Baumfree, entered the world around 1747 on a New York Farm, marking the beginning of a life filled with hardship. Born into slavery, Isabella had at least ten siblings, but the cruel practice of selling slaves like property shattered the bonds of family. Herself at the tender age of nine to Farmer John Neely exposed her to the harsh reality of slavery.



Growing up in a Dutch settlement, Isabella spoke only Dutch. Unfortunately, Neely, an English Farmer, expressed discontent over her linguistic limitations, subjecting her to frequent beatings. Undeterred by the abuse, Isabella displayed remarkable intelligence, quickly learning English by listening to those around her. Despite enduring the challenges of being sold four times, her final owner, John Dumont, treated her comparatively better, and she remained with him for sixteen years.

The agony of familial separation persisted, as Dumont denied Isabella the opportunity to marry her love, Robert. Instead, she was coerced into a union with another slave, Thomas, solely for the purpose of ensuring her children belonged to Dumont. Amid the trials of raising five children, the constant fear of them being taken away and sold loomed over her, casting a shadow on what should have been the warmth of maternal love.

### FAMILY TIES AND STRUGGLES

Sojourner Truth's journey was marked by the profound struggles of Family bonds within the harsh confines of slavery. Falling in love with a Fellow slave named Robert, Sojourner's hopes of building a family were dashed when her owner, John Dumont, forbade their union. Instead, he forced her to marry another slave, Thomas, with the intention of claiming her children as his property. Despite giving birth to five children, Sojourner's joy was overshadowed by the constant fear of separation.

Tragedy struck when one of her children died shortly after birth, intensifying the emotional toll on Sojourner. The plight of enslaved Families was further exacerbated by the arbitrary sale of children, a

painful reality where a property. Despite Dur 16 years with him, the cast it's long shadow t

Her poignant struggle human beings as com threat of slave own these challenges sar ties can endure, even

### ESCAPE TO FREE!

Around 1825, John Du her Freedom, lauding commitment, igniting anger, she made a d finally shattered, a realm of Freedom. Sojourner Truth's f held her captive.

Seeking refuge with opposed slavery, he escape, he confront agreement was a str a sum of \$25 and p set free. The shock finally shattered, a realm of Freedom. Sojourner Truth's f held her captive.

### FIGHT FOR CHI

While Sojourner an remained enslaved challenging the lie back to New York, or women rarely i

### NAMING THE

On June 1, 1835, a Truth, Formerly a chieftain of her patri her purpose. Cho ready to embark come and a small never to look bac

with her travels took her in her life's narrative.

if unwavering commitment to rights. Collaborating of Douglass and al role in the Fight speeches, delivered press on the Ohio and her efforts. For such advocate for ally gained that privileg and civil rights champion rose generations.



### COURAGE

It's legacy is a testament to her unyielding and tireless advocacy for a her pivotal role in the abolition is her unwavering commitment to women's is her legacy, carved a lasting impact on women's struggle. She fought for women's re than fifty years before it became a impact, despite being disesteemt. The narrative of Sojourner's fight time. The narrative of Sojourner's fight and published in 1850, stands as a bert and published in 1850, stands as a ination. In 1833, at the age of 86, work in Battle Creek, Michigan, where

her journey

Her legacy continues to be honored across various mediums. In 1958, the United States Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating Sojourner Truth's contributions. A testament to her enduring influence, in 1967, NASA named a small, six-wheeled robot vehicle launched into Mars after her. The statue unveiled at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., in 2004 further solidifies her place as an icon of courage.

Sojourner Truth's life serves as a beacon, inspiring generations to stand against injustice, advocate for equality, and embrace the spirit of unwavering courage in the pursuit of a better world. Her legacy resonates not only in history books but also in the ongoing fight for justice and human rights.

## READING COMPREHENSION

## COLORED & B/W VERSIONS INCLUDED

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# SOJOURNER TRUTH

## Comprehension Questions

**DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.**

1. Who was Sojourner Truth's birth name?

- a. Elizabeth BaumFree
- b. Isabella Truth
- c. Sojourner BaumFree
- d. Isabella BaumFree

2. Why did Sojourner Truth learn English quickly during her time with Farmer John Neely?

- a. She attended school regularly.
- b. Neely provided English lessons.
- c. She faced beatings for not knowing English.
- d. She had English-speaking siblings.

3. Who was Sojourner Truth's last owner before gaining freedom?

- a. John Neely
- b. Robert Dumont
- c. John Dumont
- d. V. Dumont

4. How many children did Sojourner Truth have, and what was her

## Answers Key

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. What was Sojourner Truth's birth name?  
- Answer: **c. Isabella BaumFree**  
- Reference: "Sojourner Truth, born around 1749 as Isabella BaumFree."

2. Why did Sojourner Truth learn English quickly during her time with Farmer John Neely?  
- Answer: **c. She faced beatings for not knowing English.**  
- Reference: "Neely was English and was not happy to find that Sojourner could not speak English. He often beat her because she could not follow orders."

3. Who was Sojourner Truth's last owner before gaining freedom?  
- Answer: **c. John Dumont**  
- Reference: "Her last owner, John Dumont, was nice to her and she remained with him for 18 years."

4. How many children did Sojourner Truth have, and what was her constant worry about them?  
- Answer: **b. Four children. Fear of separation and sale.**  
- Reference: "Sojourner had five children, but one died shortly after birth. She constantly worried that one of her children would be taken away and sold."

5. What led to Sojourner Truth's decision to escape from John Dumont's farm?  
- Answer: **b. Broken promises of freedom.**  
- Reference: "Dumont told Sojourner that he was going to free her around 1825, since she was such a great worker. Dumont changed his mind though and told Sojourner she had to work another year. She was so angry that she made the decision to escape."

6. What does the name "Sojourner" signify in Sojourner Truth's chosen name?  
- Answer: **b. Traveler without a home.**  
- Reference: "Choosing the name Sojourner Truth marked a new beginning. A sojourner, meaning a traveler without a permanent home."

7. Which event prompted Sojourner Truth to go to court, and what was the outcome?

7. Which event prompted Sojourner Truth to go to court, and what was the outcome?  
- Answer: **a. Her husband's death.**  
- Reference: "After her husband's death, she was ordered to marry Robert Child, her son Peter returned to New York. When her son Peter returned to New York, she gained freedom. In 1828, she was granted permanent freedom."

8. What name did Sojourner Truth choose for her new name?

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9. What speech did Sojourner Truth give in 1851, and where was it given?

- Answer: **a. "Ain't I a Woman?"**  
- Reference: "At the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, Ohio Women's Rights Convention in 1851, New York City in 1852, White House in 1853, and Liberty, Underground Railroad."

10. What did Sojourner Truth contribute to the fight against slavery and women's rights?

- Answer: **b. Wrote books and articles, gave powerful speeches, and worked with abolitionists.**  
- Reference: "Scientific research and inventions."

### Discussion Questions:

11. What was the significance of Sojourner Truth's decision to change her name?  
- Answer: **a. It reflected her new found freedom.**  
- Reference: "How does this choice reflect her new found commitment?"

12. How did the challenges Sojourner Truth faced during her time as a slave and her experiences with different owners and the law affect her family?

13. How did the circumstances that led Sojourner Truth to escape from John Dumont's Farm. How did her escape ultimately result in her freedom?

14. How did the legal battle Sojourner Truth undertook to secure the freedom of her son Peter. What challenges did she face, and how did they impact her and her family?

15. How did Sojourner Truth's role as an abolitionist and advocate for women's rights. Provide examples of her activism, including notable speeches and interactions with prominent figures of her time.

MCQ'S & QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

**READY TO PRINT**

**NO-PREP !**

**JUST PRINT AND GO!**



**EASY EDITING**

**EDITABLE**

**\*FONTS ARE EMBEDDED FOR CONVENIENCE**

