

Name _____

Date _____



Sojourner Truth

Have you ever heard of Sojourner Truth,
A freedom fighter even from her youth?
With courage, persistence, and a moral compass,
Sojourner Truth was a hero of justice!

Have you ever heard of Sojourner Truth,
A freedom fighter even from her youth?
With brains, compassion, and a moral compass,
Sojourner Truth was a woman of justice!

Sojourner Truth was born—birth name Isabella—
Into slavery around 1797
In New York. Because her enslavers spoke Dutch,
She didn't learn English until she was much older—
Sold to English speaking enslavers,
Forcibly removed from her parents, working for strangers.
But on July 4th of 1827,
Isabella was due to receive her freedom
Based on New York's emancipation laws
Abolishing slavery—meaning freedom for all.
Her final enslaver promised release in 1826 for Isabella
But rescinded that promise.
So, she left anyway, her infant daughter in arms.
Sadly, she had to leave her other children behind.
Soon, Isabella found employment and safety
With an abolitionist family.
She shortly learned that her 5-year-old-son's enslaver
Sent him to Alabama—that's a violation
Of New York law. She lacked money and education,

But she still fought, filing a formal complaint
And advocating with lawyers. Her son was returned into her custody
In New York. Isabella moved to New York City in 1828,
And that's where she made a radical change.
In the 1840's, Isabella "felt called in spirit to...
Travel east and lecture," telling her truths.
She changed her name in 1843
To one more familiar to you and me.
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A freedom fighter even from her youth?
With courage, persistence, and a moral compass,
Sojourner Truth was a hero of justice!
Have you ever heard of Sojourner Truth,
A freedom fighter even from her youth?
With faith, compassion, and a moral compass,
Sojourner Truth was a woman of justice!
Sojourner truth's journey began immediately—
Traveling, giving free sermons, and sharing her beliefs.
She was an engaging speaker and quite witty.
She joined a Massachusetts utopian community
That promoted social reform and equality.
She met abolitionists who were prominent.
By 1844, she was traveling again,
Lecturing on anti-slavery and rights for women.
Her most famous lecture: 1851,
Delivered at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention.
She riveted the crowd; Truth's speech was eloquent.
An early account reveals an elegant presence.
The version that was published years later
That sealed the speech's fame
Gave Truth a stereotypical dialect,
Introducing the phrase.

“Aint I a Woman?” was the tagline
The speech became known for,
Misrepresenting Truth as a person,
But the message was still strong.
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A freedom fighter even from her youth?
With courage, persistence, and a moral compass,
Sojourner Truth was a hero of justice!
Have you ever heard of Sojourner Truth,
A freedom fighter even from her youth?
With bravery, passion, and a moral compass,
Sojourner Truth was a woman of justice!
She continued to fight until she died,
And let her legacy be a guide
For us to do what is right.