

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Sojourner Truth - A Journey from Slavery to Freedom

Name: _____

Date: _____

 Directions:

Read the story "*Sojourner Truth: A Journey from Slavery to Freedom.*" Then answer the questions below.

1. What was Sojourner Truth's birth name?

2. Where was Sojourner Truth born?

3. What language did she speak as a little girl?

4. How old was Isabella when she was first sold?
A. 5 B. 7 C. 9 D. 12
5. What was she sold for?
A. Gold coins
B. A wagon and hay
C. \$100 and a flock of sheep
D. Nothing
6. Why was her first new owner, John Neely, cruel to her?
A. She couldn't speak Dutch
B. She couldn't speak English
C. She was too old
D. She didn't want to work
7. What did Sojourner do when her last owner broke his promise to set her free?

8. Who helped Sojourner after she escaped?
A. The Dumont family

- B. Her parents
- C. The Van Wagenens
- D. The Lincolns

9. What does the name "Sojourner Truth" mean?

10. What does the word freedom mean in the story?

11. What word from the story means "to move from place to place sharing ideas"?

- A. Worker
- B. Traveler
- C. Sojourner
- D. Speaker

12. In your own words, what does it mean to have faith?

13. Put these events in the correct order (1-4):

- ___ Sojourner met President Lincoln.
- ___ Isabella ran away with her baby daughter.
- ___ Isabella was sold at an auction.
- ___ Sojourner began giving speeches about freedom.

14. What caused Sojourner to change her name?

15. What effect did her speeches have on people?

16. How did Sojourner Truth help President Abraham Lincoln?

17. What did she do to help during the Civil War?

- A. Helped recruit Black soldiers
- B. Drove wagons for the army
- C. Worked as a nurse
- D. Built houses

18. What did Sojourner Truth fight for after the war?

19. What do you think made Sojourner Truth so brave?

20. Why do you think people still remember Sojourner Truth today?

Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) about what you would have said to Sojourner Truth if you could meet her.

Standards Alignment Summary

Standard Area	Example Questions
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1-RI.5 .1	Questions 1-8 (key details and comprehension)
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.4-RI.5 .4	Questions 9-12 (vocabulary and meaning)
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.3-RI.5 .3	Questions 13-15 (sequence and cause/effect)
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2-RI.5 .2	Questions 16-18 (main idea and historical understanding)
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1-W.5. 1	Questions 19-20 and Bonus (opinion and writing)

Teacher's Answer Key

Sojourner Truth: A Journey from Slavery to Freedom - Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Part 1: Understanding the Story

(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1, RI.4.1, RI.5.1 - Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text.)

1. Isabella Baumfree
→ Sojourner Truth's birth name before she changed it.
2. Ulster County, New York
→ She was born in New York, not the South.
3. Dutch
→ Her first owners spoke Dutch, so she learned it too.

4. C. 9
→ She was nine years old when she was first sold.
 5. C. \$100 and a flock of sheep
→ This detail highlights how people were treated as property.
 6. B. She couldn't speak English
→ Her new owner beat her because she didn't understand English.
 7. She ran away / escaped from slavery with her baby daughter, Sophia.
→ She left when her owner broke his promise to free her.
 8. C. The Van Wagenens
→ A kind family that helped her buy her freedom.
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Part 2: Meaning and Vocabulary

(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.4, RI.4.4, RI.5.4 - Determine meaning of words and phrases in a text.)

9. "Traveler for Truth."
→ That's what her chosen name, *Sojourner Truth*, means.
10. Freedom means being able to live your own life and make your own choices.
→ Students may phrase differently; accept any accurate meaning.
11. C. Sojourner
→ The word "sojourner" means traveler or one who journeys.
12. Having faith means believing and trusting, even when things are hard.
→ Accept variations that show understanding of belief and trust.

Part 3: Sequencing and Cause/Effect

(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.3, RI.4.3, RI.5.3 - Describe relationships between events and explain cause/effect.)

13. Order:

- 1 → Isabella was sold at an auction.
- 2 → Isabella ran away with her baby daughter.
- 3 → Sojourner began giving speeches about freedom.
- 4 → Sojourner met President Lincoln.

14. She changed her name because she felt called by God to travel and tell the truth.
→ Her new name reflected her mission.

15. Her speeches made people think differently about slavery and women's rights.
→ She inspired others to fight for justice and equality.

Part 4: History and Influence

(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2, RI.4.2, RI.5.2 - Identify main ideas and explain how they are supported by key details.)

16. She met with President Lincoln and encouraged him in his work to end slavery.
→ She influenced national leaders with her courage and words.

17. A. Helped recruit Black soldiers
→ She helped the Union Army during the Civil War.

18. She fought for women's rights and helped freed slaves find jobs and homes.
→ Continued her activism after the war.

Part 5: Critical Thinking and Writing

(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1, W.4.1, W.5.1 - Write opinions and explanations using reasons and evidence.)

19. Possible answers:

- She never gave up, even when life was hard.
- She stood up for what was right.
- She trusted God and wanted to help others.

20. Possible answers:

- Because she fought for freedom and equality.
- She showed that one person's voice can change history.
- Her bravery and kindness inspire people today.

Bonus Activity (Optional Writing - W.3.3 / W.4.3 / W.5.3):

Sample Answer:

"If I could meet Sojourner Truth, I would ask her how she stayed so strong when life was unfair. I would thank her for fighting for freedom and for showing everyone that women's voices matter."

Standards Alignment Overview

Common Core Standard	Skill Focus	Question Numbers
RI.3.1 / RI.4.1 / RI.5.1	Key ideas & details	1-8
RI.3.4 / RI.4.4 / RI.5.4	Vocabulary in context	9-12
RI.3.3 / RI.4.3 / RI.5.3	Sequence & cause/effect	13-15

RI.3.2 / RI.4.2 / RI.5.2	Main ideas & summarizing	16-18
W.3.1 / W.4.1 / W.5.1	Opinion writing	19-20
W.3.3 / W.4.3 / W.5.3	Narrative writing	Bonus

Teacher Notes

- Time estimate: 30-40 minutes (reading + questions)
- Differentiation tips:
 - For younger or developing readers, read the story aloud first.
 - Allow oral discussion for short-answer items 16-20.
 - For advanced students, extend the writing task by comparing Sojourner Truth to another historical figure (e.g., Harriet Tubman).