



SOJOURNER TRUTH: ABOLITIONIST

by Heath Colbert Lourie & Penelope Blatman

Did You Know? In 1851, Truth gave a speech in Ohio called "Ain't I a Woman" and demanded equal human rights for all women and African-Americans.

Sojourner Truth was born in Ulster County, NY in 1797 with the name her slaver gave her, Isabella Baumfree. At age 9, she was sold to John Neely for \$100 with a flock of sheep. Neely was a cruel and violent slaver who beat Sojourner Truth regularly. She eventually escaped with her infant daughter in 1827.

Sojourner Truth was known for being an abolitionist. An abolitionist is a person who tries to get rid of slavery. When the Civil War started, Truth urged young men to join the Union cause and organized supplies for black troops. After the war, she was honored with an invitation to the White House and became involved with the Freedmen's Bureau, helping freed slaves find jobs and build new lives. She was courageous and worked hard by not only helping others escape slavery but also by being a women's rights activist and supporting religious tolerance.

