

# SOJOURNER TRUTH

1779 - 1883



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Sojourner Truth was born into slavery as Isabella Baumfree in Ulster County, New York. She escaped to freedom with her daughter in 1826, and by 1829 she was living in New York City. Throughout her life, Sojourner claimed to have received special visions from God, and in 1843 she left New York City and took the name Sojourner Truth.

“Sojourner” means traveler, and she lived up to the name by visiting communities across the upper Midwest, New England and Mid-Atlantic states. In the course of her travels, she spoke and published works against the injustices of racism and sexism. Sojourner did not have a permanent home again until the late 1850s when she settled in Battle Creek, Michigan. In 1851, she gave the speech “*Ain’t I a Woman*,” which was considered by some historians to be one of the most effective arguments ever made for women’s rights.