

Slavery in the North

In 1806, 9-year-old Isabella Baumfree and her family lived on the property of Charles Ardinburgh of Ulster County in New York. When Ardinburgh died, Isabella found her mother in tears.

"Mau-mau, what makes you cry?" Isabella asked.

"Oh, my child, I am thinking of your brothers and sisters that have been sold away from me," her mother replied.

Soon after, Isabella too was separated from her mother. She was **auctioned**¹—along with other slaves, horses, and cattle—and purchased for \$100. She was sold again and again, from master to master, until she was **emancipated**² in 1828.

Students of history know Isabella better by the name she chose as an adult—Sojourner Truth. Truth was an **abolitionist**. She spoke out against slavery. But what some people may not know is that Truth was one of thousands of slaves who were bought, sold, and forced to do labor in the North.

"Many people are surprised when you talk about slavery in the North," Alan Singer, a professor of education at Hofstra University, told *Senior Edition*. "We associate slavery with the South, even though the biggest importer of slaves—after South Carolina—was New York City."

Historians are beginning to bring slavery in the North into the spotlight. The New York Historical Society recently presented an exhibition on slavery in that state. Singer, who travels the country to talk to students about slavery in the North, wants people to remember that slavery was a national institution.

The slave trade helped finance the **Industrial Revolution** in many major Northern cities, such as Boston and New York City. The

1 auctioned: sold to the person willing to pay the highest price

2 emancipate: to free from slavery

Industrial Revolution was a period of rapid growth in the use of machinery in the early 1800s. Many U.S. businesses got their start with profits from slave-produced goods and the slave trade.

It's important to understand how slavery affected the entire country, because its effects linger through discrimination, Singer says. "Kids see slavery as something that happened in the deep past," he told *Senior Edition*. "I want children to know that we still live with the effects of that slavery society."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Sojourner Truth was all of the following EXCEPT

- A a daughter
- B a slave
- C an abolitionist
- D a professor

2. According to the passage, what was one effect of slavery in many major Northern cities?

- A Slavery helped finance the Industrial Revolution in the North.
- B Slavery stopped the growth of machinery in the North in the 1800s.
- C Slavery slowed the growth of many U.S. businesses in the North.
- D Slavery put an end to the Industrial Revolution in the North.

3. What can you conclude about Sojourner Truth after reading the passage?

- A She was shy and quiet.
- B She knows Alan Singer.
- C She lives in New York.
- D She was outspoken.

4. Read this sentence from the passage: "We associate slavery with the South, even though the biggest importer of slaves—after South Carolina—was New York City."

In this sentence, the word **associate** means

- A explain
- B judge
- C mourn
- D connect

5. Which statement best describes the central idea of this passage?

- A The Industrial Revolution began in the early 1800s.
- B Alan Singer is a professor of education at Hofstra University.
- C Sojourner Truth was emancipated from slavery in 1828.
- D Historians are teaching people about slavery in the North.

6. What was Sojourner Truth’s original name?

7. What might Alan Singer have meant when he said that the effects of slavery “linger through discrimination”? Please give an example from the text that supports your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Many people associate slavery with the South, _____ slavery was in the North too, says Alan Singer.

- A because
- B until
- C for
- D but

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Alan Singer travels around the United States to teach students that slavery affected the entire country.

Who? Alan Singer

(does) What? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** auctioned: sold to the person willing to pay the highest price.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1000

Featured Text Structure: Cause/Effect – the writer presents the reason an event happened and its results

Passage Summary: “Slavery in the North” describes the life of Sojourner Truth and how historians are beginning to spotlight slavery in the North and its effects on the country.

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6. What was Sojourner Truth's original name?

Suggested answer: Sojourner Truth's original name was Isabella Baumfree. [paragraph 1]

7. What might Alan Singer have meant when he said that the effects of slavery "linger through discrimination"? Please give an example from the text that supports your answer.

Suggested answer: He probably meant that the effects of slavery continue today, because people are still discriminated against. He said, "Kids see slavery as something that happened in the deep past. I want children to know that we still live with the effects of that slavery society." [last paragraph]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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Alan Singer travels around the United States to teach students that slavery affected the entire country.

Who? Alan Singer

(does) What? **travels**

Where? **around the United States**

Why? **to teach students that slavery affected the entire country**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** auctioned: sold to the person willing to pay the highest price.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.