Sojourner Truth- “Ain’t I a Woman”

* Sojourner Truth was a famous African American slave, abolitionist, and women's rights activist.
* She was named Isabella Baumfree, but she changed her name to Sojourner Truth in 1843 when she was about 46 years old.
* Truth was born of slave parents owned by a wealthy Dutch patron in Ulster County, New York around 1797.
* Her parents, her twelve siblings, and her five children were also born slaves.
* She bore some five children by a fellow slave. At least two of her daughters and one son were sold away from her during these years.
* Truth was bought and sold four times during her life. She was beaten and raped when she was a young slave.
* In 1826 she escaped from her master with her infant daughter. She left her other four children behind.
* A Quaker family helped her. They let her and her daughter live with them.
* Truth gained her freedom when the New York State Emancipation Act was passed in 1827.
* She became a Christian and traveled around the country to help with abolitionist causes and to promote women's rights.
* Truth delivered a famous speech called "Ain't I a Woman" at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, in 1851.
* She spoke to many audiences about slavery, prison reform, capital punishment, and women's rights.
* Truth did more than just speak; she also recruited African American soldiers for the Union Army during the Civil War, tried to get land grants for former slaves, and tried to vote in a presidential election.
* Sojourner Truth died on November 26, 1883, in Battle Creek, Michigan.

**SOJOURNER TRUTH FACTS**

1. Sojourner Truth was six feet tall.

2. During a speech in 1858, when someone accused her of being a man, she opened her blouse to prove she wasn't one.

3. Truth met with Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant.

4. The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in her honor in 1986.

5. NASA named a robotic rover after her.

*In 1851, Truth attended the Women’s Rights Convention in Ohio. According to Frances Gage, the president of the Convention, on the second day several male ministers showed up and argued that women should not have the same rights as men. The ministers reasoning: women were weak, men were intellectually superior to women, Jesus was a man, and our first mother sinned.*

*Sojourner Truth rose and (amidst protests from some of the women who feared shed talk about abolition) delivered her short, masterful speech*