The Struggle for Rights

Slavery in New York
Slavery in New York began when the Dutch brought enslaved Africans to the area in the 1600s. After the American Revolution, some New Yorkers called for emancipation. Slavery ended in the state in 1827, but abolitionists in New York wanted to end it throughout the country. Some helped enslaved Africans escape using the Underground Railroad. The first African American newspaper was published in New York City, and two New Yorkers helped found the American Anti-Slavery Society. Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass escaped slavery and became important abolitionists.

Women’s Rights
People also fought for women’s rights in the 1800s. At that time, women could not attend most schools, own property, or vote. New Yorkers Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott worked for women’s suffrage. In 1848, they organized a convention in Seneca Falls, New York. People at the convention decided on ways to fight for women’s rights. Stanton also worked for women’s suffrage with Susan B. Anthony, who lived in Rochester. However, the battle for suffrage was a long one. Women did not gain the right to vote in all states until 1920.

SENCECA FALLS

Find and underline a form of each vocabulary word.

emancipation noun, the freeing of enslaved people
abolitionist noun, someone who joined the movement to end slavery
suffrage noun, the right to vote

When did slavery end in New York? Highlight the sentence that tells the answer.

What important right did Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott work for? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

SKILL Reading Maps
In which town did an important meeting for women’s rights take place? Draw a circle around the name of the city.