

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Michelle Obama Spreads Education

Former First Lady Michelle Obama worked hard to make positive changes in the United States and the world. Her largest contribution focused on education, something very valuable in today's society. Michelle Obama started the Reach Higher Initiative in 2014. This program promotes post-high school education for young people in the United States. It helps students learn about community colleges and training programs. It also works with school counselors and students to help them become more informed about financial aid opportunities. It can guide students to find the best place for their education after high school.

Obama also helped educate students worldwide while she was First Lady. With her husband, she worked on the Let Girls Learn program. It was developed to assist girls around the world in completing their education. People in different parts of the world have different needs, and this program really helps. Let Girls Learn works with other organizations to train girls in specific skills or jobs. There are some places where girls are not encouraged to finish school. In these places, this program and its partners build schools, train teachers, and improve the quality of existing schools.

Michelle Obama made many positive changes while she was First Lady. She especially helped children by working to improve education in the United States and around the world.

Student Name _____

- 1 Which sentence **best** expresses the author’s point of view?
- A Michelle Obama was one of the best First Ladies because of her work at the White House.
 - B As First Lady, Michelle Obama made important, lasting programs to help with education.
 - C Michelle Obama taught many girls around the world during her time at the White House.
 - D As First Lady, Michelle Obama worked to encourage students to finish school.
- 2 Which sentence from the text **best** expresses the author’s attitude toward Michelle Obama’s work as First Lady?
- A “Her largest contribution focused on education, something very valuable in today’s society.”
 - B “It can guide students to find the best place for their education after high school.”
 - C “There are some places where girls are not encouraged to finish school.”
 - D “In these places, this program and its partners build schools, train teachers, and improve the quality of existing schools.”

GO ON →

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The Angel of the Battlefield

Clara Barton, known as the “Angel of the Battlefield,” responded to the great need of wounded soldiers during the American Civil War. When war began, Barton participated in gathering items, such as bandages and other medical supplies, to send to troops. She soon realized that she wanted to do more, so she went to the battlefields and tended to the hurt soldiers in person. She was allowed to do this after U.S. Surgeon General William Hammond signed a military pass for her on July 11, 1862.

Barton worked tirelessly with the wounded, and she also communicated with departments to get the necessary supplies to care for the troops. After the Civil War, many soldiers were missing. Some were lost, imprisoned, or in unmarked graves. Barton created an office and supervised a search to find the missing men.

Later, Barton traveled to Europe to help the wounded on battlefields in Europe, where she witnessed the work of the Red Cross organization. Upon her return to the United States, she worked to set up an American Red Cross and finally succeeded in 1882. It was a great achievement. Barton became the president of the American Red Cross until 1904.

After its beginning, the Red Cross responded to disasters not related to war. For example, the organization brought relief after major flooding in Pennsylvania in 1889. It also helped hurricane victims on the southeastern coast of the country in 1893. Today, the American Red Cross still exists to give help when it is needed.

Student Name _____

3 Read the sentence from the text.

Barton created an office and supervised a search to find the missing men.

The prefix *super-* means “above and beyond,” and the Latin root *vis* means “to see.” What does the word supervised mean?

- A discussed
- B was in charge of, managed
- C developed, planned
- D started

4 Read the sentence from the text.

It was a great achievement.

The suffix *-ment* shows the result of an action. It is added to verbs to form nouns. What does the word achievement mean?

- A someone who reaches a goal
- B not finding success
- C something done successfully
- D able to reach a goal

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Courage of Mum Bett

Around the year 1742, a woman named Elizabeth was born into slavery. She had no last name. She and her younger sister Lizzie grew up in the household of Pieter Hogeboom, a Dutch landowner. He lived in the Hudson Valley of New York State. Elizabeth and Lizzie were either sold or given by the Hogeboom family to the Ashley family of Sheffield, Massachusetts.

Elizabeth lived in the Ashley household for about thirty years. There are not many documents that give information about her early life, and the facts are difficult to determine. Records state that she married and had a child. By that time, she was known as “Mum Bett,” and her daughter was called “Little Bett.” Her husband fought in the American Revolution and was probably killed in battle.

John Ashley, the head of the Ashley household, was an important man in eighteenth-century Massachusetts. He was a lawyer and a judge, and he was involved in writing the state constitution, which established the laws of the state. The constitution, adopted in 1780, included a statement called the Sheffield Declaration. It said, “Mankind in a State of Nature are equal, free, and independent of each other, and have a right to the undisturbed Enjoyment of their lives, their Liberty and Property.”

No one knows just how Mum Bett learned about this statement. Some sources say she overheard a discussion about it when serving at the family table or working around the house. Others say she heard the Sheffield Declaration read aloud at the village meetinghouse. Either way, the statement made her think about the injustice of slavery.

No one is sure, either, what drove Mum Bett to act. One story claims that Mrs. Ashley discovered that Mum Bett’s sister Lizzie had made a cake for herself. Furious, she tried to strike Lizzie with a hot shovel. Unafraid, Mum Bett pushed Lizzie aside. The shovel hit her own arm instead of Lizzie’s, injuring and burning it.

Mum Bett left the Ashley house and refused to return. The Ashleys tried to use the law to bring her back. At that time, slavery was legal in Massachusetts. Mum Bett went to a lawyer named Theodore Sedgwick, who was known for his antislavery views. He would later become a state senator. She asked him to help file a lawsuit for her freedom. Sedgwick agreed, and another man named Brom joined in the lawsuit. Citing the state constitution, Sedgwick sued for their freedom, claiming that Ashley was acting unlawfully by enslaving Mum Bett.

UNIT 4 WEEKS 1 AND 2

The case was tried in 1781, and in August of that year, Sedgwick won the case. There is no record of what happened to Brom after the trial. The court fined Ashley, and Mum Bett was freed. Other similar cases were tried in Massachusetts, and finally, in 1783, slavery was outlawed in the state. Massachusetts was only the third state in the U.S. to ban slavery, and it did so more than eighty years before slavery was outlawed in the country as a whole.

Mum Bett took the last name Freeman and went to work as a paid servant for the Sedgwicks, staying with them until she was able to buy her own house. The family loved and relied on her, and in an uprising called Shays' Rebellion, she defended the Sedgwicks' house against rebels who tried to enter and loot it. Holding a shovel and using her wits, she convinced the rebels to leave. Mum Bett died in 1829 and is buried in the Sedgwick family burial plot.

Mum Bett Freeman could not read or write. She never had the opportunity to become educated, but she had strong beliefs, and she was courageous. Without Mum Bett's daring and inspiring efforts, the Massachusetts law allowing slavery may have remained unchanged. Thousands of men and women may have continued living in slavery for years more.

Student Name _____

- 5 Which statement **best** expresses the author’s point of view about Mum Bett?
- A She would have accomplished even more if she were educated.
 - B She loved her family a great deal.
 - C She was misunderstood by historians for many years.
 - D She showed great courage.
- 6 Which sentence supports the author’s point of view of Mum Bett?
- A “There are not many documents that give information about her early life, and the facts are difficult to determine.”
 - B “Unafraid, Mum Bett pushed Lizzie aside.”
 - C “The case was tried in 1781, and in August of that year, Sedgwick won the case.”
 - D “Mum Bett Freeman could not read or write.”

7 Read the excerpts from the text.

It said, "Mankind in a State of Nature are equal, free, and independent of each other, and have a right to the undisturbed Enjoyment of their lives, their Liberty and Property."

Either way, the statement made her think about the injustice of slavery.

Using the knowledge that the Latin prefix *in-* means "not," match the words independent and injustice from the text with their meanings. Write the correct meanings in the chart. Choose your answers from the box below.

Word	Meaning
independent	
injustice	

Meanings:	
the opposite of justice	one who seeks justice
living together	not relying on others
before justice	helpless

8 Read the sentence from the text.

Mum Bett went to a lawyer named Theodore Sedgwick, who was known for his antislavery views.

What does the word antislavery in this sentence tell about Sedgwick?

- A** He profited from slavery.
- B** He had no opinion of slavery.
- C** He was born into slavery.
- D** He was against slavery.

GO ON →

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9 Read the sentence from the text.

He would later become a state senator.

The suffix *-or* means “person who.” What does the word senator mean?

- A someone from another state
- B a member of a state’s senate
- C someone who believes in no government
- D a local volunteer

10 Which sentence from the text supports the author’s point of view about ending slavery in Massachusetts?

- A “Citing the state constitution, Sedgwick sued for their freedom, claiming that Ashley was acting unlawfully by enslaving Mum Bett.”
- B “Other similar cases were tried in Massachusetts, and finally, in 1783, slavery was outlawed in the state.”
- C “She never had the opportunity to become educated, but she had strong beliefs, and she was courageous.”
- D “Without Mum Bett’s daring and inspiring efforts, the Massachusetts law allowing slavery may have remained unchanged.”

