

Interview Elizabeth Freeman

Excerpt from the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780:

Article I. All men are born free and equal, and have certain natural, essential, and unalienable rights; among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; that of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness.

1. What words stand out from this passage?

2. How would you view these words if you were Elizabeth Freeman? (She heard these words when she was enslaved.)

"Any time while I was a slave, if one minute's freedom had been offered to me & I had been told I must die at the end of that minute I would have taken it — just to stand one minute on God's earth a free woman — I would."

What does Elizabeth Freeman mean by this statement?

If you could interview Elizabeth Freeman today, what three questions would you ask her and why?

1)

2)

3)

