

### Warm-Up Activity:

<p><b>Definition of <i>injustice</i>:</b></p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>An example of injustice:</b></p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Ways to fight against injustice:</b></p> <hr/> <hr/>

### Word Bank

Reconstruction	truth	Mississippi	press	injustice
Memphis, Tennessee	speech	injustices	slave	speaker
journalist	assembly	lynching	Chicago	findings
				freedom

**Directions:** Use the word bank to complete the following fill-in-the-blank questions.

1. Leo and Layla meet Ida B. Wells in \_\_\_\_\_ in 1894. She was a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. As an investigative journalist, Ida B. Wells was very passionate about investigating to find the \_\_\_\_\_, and then writing about her \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Ida B. Wells was born in \_\_\_\_\_ in 1862. Just like her parents, she was born a \_\_\_\_\_.



4. Ida B. Wells endured a lot of hardship growing up in the South during \_\_\_\_\_, but she worked hard, made good choices, and managed to become the co-owner and editor of a newspaper in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Ida B. Wells believed that \_\_\_\_\_ of information would help make America and the world a better place for everyone.
6. Ida B. Wells wrote about the many \_\_\_\_\_ black people in the South endured, even after they were freed from slavery, such as horrible acts of violence against black men called \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Ida B. Wells believed that Americans' rights, like freedom of the \_\_\_\_\_, freedom of \_\_\_\_\_, and of \_\_\_\_\_, are so precious because they ensure our ability to speak out against \_\_\_\_\_.

**Short Response:**

8. What did Ida B. Wells call her newspaper, and why?

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9. How did Ida B. Wells use her skills as a journalist to put an end to the injustice black people in the South were facing during her time?

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10. Besides her writing, what else did Ida B. Wells do to make a difference and help black people gain their full rights in America?

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**Making Connections:**

11. In the video, Leo and Layla realize the importance of Ida B. Wells' efforts to expose injustices. According to Ida B. Wells, what is the way to right wrongs?

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12. What qualities do you think made Ida B. Wells a strong leader and advocate for change? Provide evidence from the video to support your answer.

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13. What does Ida B. Wells' story teach you about the importance of bravery and honesty in standing up for what is right? Provide a specific example of how you can apply this lesson to your own life.

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## Ida B. Wells | Answer Key

### Warm-Up Activity

Check students' work for completion.

### Word Bank

Reconstruction	truth	Mississippi	press	injustice
Memphis, Tennessee	speech	injustices	slave	speaker
journalist	assembly	lynching	Chicago	findings
				freedom

**Directions:** Use the word bank to complete the following fill-in-the-blank questions.

1. Leo and Layla meet Ida B. Wells in Chicago in 1894. She was a journalist and a speaker.
2. As an investigative journalist, Ida B. Wells was very passionate about investigating to find the truth, and then writing about her findings.
3. Ida B. Wells was born in Mississippi in 1862. Just like her parents, she was born a slave.
4. Ida B. Wells endured a lot of hardship growing up in the South during Reconstruction, but she worked hard, made good choices, and managed to become the co-owner and editor of a newspaper in Memphis, Tennessee.
5. Ida B. Wells believed that freedom of information would help make America and the world a better place for everyone.
6. Ida B. Wells wrote about the many injustices black people in the South endured, even after they were freed from slavery, such as horrible acts of violence against black men called lynching.
7. Ida B. Wells believed that Americans' rights, like freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and of assembly, are so precious because they ensure our ability to speak out against injustice.

### Short Response:

8. What did Ida B. Wells call her newspaper, and why?  
Ida B. Wells named her newspaper "The Free Speech and Headlight" because she believed, "The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them." She felt that investigative journalism should uncover the truth and that freedom of information would improve America and the world.
9. How did Ida B. Wells use her skills as a journalist to put an end to the injustice black people in the South were facing during her time?  
Ida B. Wells used her journalism skills to investigate and expose lynching, revealing the brutal realities of racial violence and injustice. Her writings raised awareness and rallied support for anti-lynching and civil rights movements. By interviewing witnesses and

utilizing freedom of the press, she brought global attention to the issue and inspired people to organize against lynching.

10. Besides her writing, what else did Ida B. Wells do to make a difference and help black people gain their full rights in America?

In 1884, Ida B. Wells was forced to move from the First Class Ladies' car to the smoking car on a train just because of the color of her skin. She refused and was dragged away by conductors. Upset by this treatment, she wrote articles and sued the railroad. Although she initially won, the Tennessee Supreme Court later reversed the ruling.

### **Making Connections:**

11. In the video, Leo and Layla realize the importance of Ida B. Wells' efforts to expose injustices. According to Ida B. Wells, what is the way to right wrongs?

Leo and Layla realize that when journalists like Ida B. Wells work hard to expose bad things, they are exercising their Constitutional rights of free speech and a free press. People might be made uncomfortable by what a brave and honest reporter exposes, but the way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.

12. What qualities do you think made Ida B. Wells a strong leader and advocate for change? Provide evidence from the video to support your answer.

Ida B. Wells's courage, determination, resilience, and passion for justice made her a strong leader and advocate for change. She was not afraid to speak out against injustice and was committed to fighting for equality and civil rights, even though many people didn't want to hear what she had to say. People even broke into her offices, burned her printing presses, and drove her from Memphis, but she did not give up or back down.

13. What does Ida B. Wells' story teach you about the importance of bravery and honesty in standing up for what is right? Provide a specific example of how you can apply this lesson to your own life.

Sample answer: Ida B. Wells' story teaches how bravery and determination can make a difference by standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity. Her actions remind us of the importance of courage, perseverance, and fighting for equality and justice for all. I am inspired by Ida B. Wells' story to stand up for students who get bullied at my school.