

The Liberty Bell



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The Liberty Bell once rang in the tower of the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, now Independence Hall. It called lawmakers to meetings and people to hear the news.

The first bell, from London, cracked the first time it was rung. Two Philadelphia metalworkers, John Pass and John Stow, melted it down and made a new bronze bell in 1753.

Around the top are the words "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof." People working to end slavery took heart from these words, and in 1835 one of their papers first called it the Liberty Bell. Later, women fighting for the right to vote and civil rights leaders took it up too.

In 1846, workers drilled the thin crack wider to stop it spreading, so the wide crack you see is the repair. It failed: a new crack opened, and the bell has not rung freely since.

1. In which building did the Liberty Bell ring?

2. Who made the Liberty Bell, and in what year?

3. Why did Pass and Stow have to make a new bell?

4. Why do you think people working to end slavery liked the words on the bell?

Answer key

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1. In which building did the Liberty Bell ring?
The Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, now called Independence Hall.
2. Who made the Liberty Bell, and in what year?
John Pass and John Stow, two Philadelphia metalworkers, in 1753.
3. Why did Pass and Stow have to make a new bell?
Because the first bell, from London, cracked the first time it was rung.
4. Why do you think people working to end slavery liked the words on the bell?
Sample answer: the words call for liberty for everyone in the land, and they wanted enslaved people to be free.