

Name _____

Date _____

Frederick Douglass

Reading Comprehension

Frederick Douglass was born in Talbot County, Maryland in 1818. His mother, Harriet Bailey, was a slave. He was separated from his mother at an early age and was primarily raised by his grandparents.

At the age of eight, Frederick was sent to live with relatives of his master in Baltimore. Their names were Hugh and Sophia. By using the Bible, Sophia taught Frederick to read. A quick learner, Frederick began reading other books on his own. At the age of thirteen, Frederick bought a copy of *The Columbian Orator*, which greatly influenced his oratory skills.

But Frederick's life would be greatly shaken a few years later when he was sold to a harsh taskmaster. This experience would change Frederick's life. Douglas escaped to freedom in 1838 by the Underground Railroad.

Shortly after making it to safety, Frederick married Anna, a free black woman from Baltimore and they started a family. They would eventually have five children. Frederick worked at the docks but struggled to make ends meet. In 1839, Frederick heard a speech by William Lloyd Garrison and soon joined the antislavery movement.

In 1841, Frederick attended the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and was asked to speak at a rally. He agreed and they offered to employ him as a speaker. Frederick soon became one of the leading abolitionists in the country. He published an autobiography called *Narrative* in 1845 in which he described his experience as a slave.

Because of his widespread fame, Frederick feared being captured and therefore he went abroad and toured England and Ireland for two years. In 1847, his freedom was purchased and Frederick returned back to the United States.

Upon his return to the United States, Frederick moved to New York and started publishing a newspaper. In his newspaper, Frederick expressed and defended the rights of blacks and women.

Throughout the Civil War, Frederick continued to campaign for full civil rights for blacks. In 1872, Frederick moved to Washington, D.C. He held several government posts, including United States marshal for the District of Columbia, recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia and minister to Haiti.

In 1895, Frederick died as one of the most effective orators and activists to have ever lived.

Name _____

Date _____

Frederick Douglass

Listening and Comprehension Worksheet

1. In what year was Frederick born? _____
2. At the age of eight, where did Frederick go to live? _____
3. What book was used to teach Frederick to read? _____
4. What book did Frederick buy that influenced him greatly? _____
5. In what year did Frederick escape slavery by the Underground Railroad? _____
6. What was his wife's name? _____
7. How many children did they have? _____
8. What movement did Frederick join after being influenced by William Lloyd Garrison?

9. In 1841, what group asked Frederick to speak? _____
10. What was the name of Frederick's autobiography? _____
11. In what year was Frederick's freedom purchased? _____
12. After two years of touring England and Ireland, what state did Frederick move to upon his return to the United States? _____
13. List one government post that Frederick held. _____
14. Frederick died in what year? _____
15. What is Frederick Douglas most remembered for today? _____

Name _____

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Frederick Douglass

Listening and Comprehension Worksheet

1. In what year was Frederick born? **1818**
2. At the age of eight, where did Frederick go to live? **Baltimore**
3. What book was used to teach Frederick to read? **Bible**
4. What book did Frederick buy that influenced him greatly? **The Columbian Orator**
5. In what year did Frederick escape slavery by the Underground Railroad? **1838**
6. What was his wife's name? **Anna**
7. How many children did they have? **5**
8. What movement did Frederick join after being influenced by William Lloyd Garrison?
Antislavery
9. In 1841, what group asked Frederick to speak? **Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society**
16. What was the name of Frederick's autobiography? **Narrative**
17. In what year was Frederick's freedom purchased? **1847**
18. After two years of touring England and Ireland, what state did Frederick move to upon his return to the United States? **New York**
19. List one government post that Frederick held. **United States marshal for the District of Columbia, recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia and minister to Haiti.**
20. Frederick died in what year? **1895**
21. What is Frederick Douglas most remembered for today? **His effective oratory skills and involvement as an abolitionist.**