

Contents

To the Teacher vii

Introduction 1

- What Is a Hero? 2
- African-American Heroes in U.S. History 2
- Slavery and African-American Resistance 4
- Slavery, Manifest Destiny, and the Road to War 4
- Secession and the Start of the Civil War 6
- African Americans in the Civil War 6

Key Battles and Events of the Civil War 8

- First Battles: Fort Sumter and Bull Run 9
- The Bloody Battles of Shiloh and Antietam 9
- Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation 10
- Battle of Gettysburg Turns the Tide 10
- The End of the War: Sherman's March and Appomattox 10

African-American Heroes Behind the Lines 11

- Frederick Douglass: Recruiter and Adviser to
President Lincoln 12
- More Heroic African-American Recruiters
 - Martin Delany: Recruiter, Adviser, and Field Officer 23
 - John Mercer Langston: Recruiter, Orator, and Politician 24
- Harriet Tubman: Nurse, Spy, and Leader of a Daring
Riverboat Raid 26
- More Heroic African-American Spies
 - John Scobell: One of Pinkerton's Top Spies 37
 - Mary Louvestre: Savior of the Union Navy 38
- Charlotte Forten: Teacher and Nurse in the War Zone 39
- More Heroic African Americans Serving the Freedmen
 - Sojourner Truth: Nurse, Orator, and
Civil Rights Champion 53
 - Susie King Taylor: From Slave to Teacher 54
 - Elizabeth Keckley: Relief Worker, Mrs. Lincoln's Friend 55

***African-
American
Heroes
on the
Battlefield
57***

Captain André Cailloux: Heroic African-American Officer 58
More Heroic African-American Officers 72
 Major Francis Dumas: Major in the Louisiana Native Guard 73
 Alexander Augusta: Surgeon 73
William Carney: Congressional Medal of Honor Winner 75
More Heroic African-American Army Medal of Honor Winners
 First Lieutenant William Appleton and Sergeant Decatur
 Dorsey: Heroes of the Battle of Petersburg 87
 Fourteen Other Medal of Honor Winners at Chaffin's Farm 88
Robert Smalls: First African-American Naval Captain 89
More Heroic African-American Sailors
 William Tillman: Early Union Hero 100
 John Lawson: Naval Medal of Honor Winner 101
 More Naval Medal of Honor Winners 102

***Teacher's
Guide 103***

Answer Key 104
Multicultural Education for All Students 109
Strategies for Using This Book with English Learners 111
Assessment Project: African-American Heroes Action
 Comic Book 114
 Time Line of Nineteenth-Century U.S. History 117
 Time Line of Twentieth-Century U.S. History 118
 U.S. Map Template 119
 World Map Template 120
 Comic Book Storyboard 121
African-American Heroes for Further Research: Web Sites 122
African-American Heroes for Further Research: Books 123

Bibliography 125

Index 127

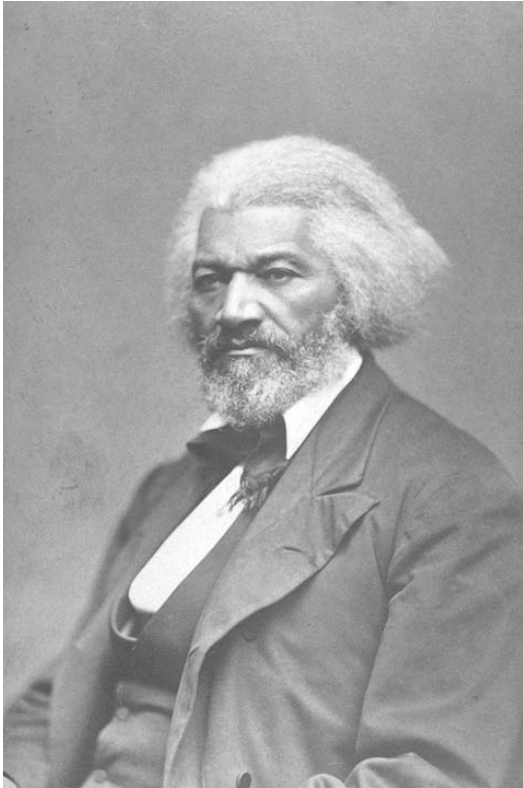
About the Author 131

Name _____

Date _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Recruiter and Adviser to President Lincoln



Frederick Douglass

“There is no man in the country whose opinions I value more.”

—President Abraham Lincoln, speaking of Frederick Douglass, March 20, 1865

Frederick Douglass was a remarkable **orator** and early civil rights leader. Douglass escaped slavery and spoke against it for many years. He rose to become an **adviser** to President Lincoln during the Civil War. He also helped **recruit** some of the 200,000 African-American troops that participated in the

war. Douglass had a very eventful life. Throughout it, he showed the world how far an African American could go if given the chance.

Before the Civil War



Frederick Douglass was born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey in 1817. “Bailey” may be a substitute for “Belali,” a name common in the African country of Guinea. Many years before, his mother’s **ancestors** were probably captured there. They were brought to the United States to become slaves. Later in his life, after escaping from slavery, Frederick changed his name to “Douglass” for protection.

At first, Douglass lived on a large **plantation** in Maryland. As a young child, he suffered from cold and hunger. Even on cold winter nights he slept on the dirt floor wrapped in an old corn **sack**. He did not have a blanket or even a jacket. His food was little better than what the farm animals ate. It was never enough to satisfy his hunger.

In 1825, at age seven, he was sent to live in Baltimore, a large city across the Chesapeake Bay. The wife of his new owner started to teach him the alphabet. But she had to stop when her husband found out. It was **forbidden** to teach a slave to read! Douglass, however, decided he would continue learning on his own. During the next seven years, he secretly taught himself to read and write. Some of the white children he met in the streets helped him.

(continued)



Name _____

Date _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

In 1832, Douglass was sent again to work on a plantation. He would not obey the slave owners. So he was constantly **whipped** and beaten. He was sent to a special plantation for **disobedient** slaves. Its owner, Mr. Covey, hit Douglass with a piece of wood and cracked open his skull. A few days later, he fought back and wrestled Mr. Covey. Normally, a slaveowner would call the police. But Mr. Covey didn't want people to find out a slave would disobey him. He let Frederick return to work and never whipped him again.

This incident made Douglass think more and more about what it would be like to be free. Finally, in 1838, he succeeded in escaping. He borrowed identification papers from a free African-American sailor. Douglass then got on a train heading north. Upon arriving in the free North he changed his name to "Douglass." That would make it harder for his owner to find him. Then he married a free African-American woman named Anna Murray. He could have settled down and enjoyed his new freedom. Instead, he decided he could not rest while slavery still existed. So in 1841 he began to speak out about the reality of slavery.

Douglass was an excellent speaker. Many listeners said he could not have been a slave. He had to prove them wrong. In 1845 he wrote a book about his experiences called *Narrative of the Life*



Even elderly slaves like this one were whipped by the slaveowners.

of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. This book became very popular. Douglass feared his old master would find him and return him to slavery.

Because of this, he traveled to England. While there, he continued to speak out against slavery in the United States. Many people in England were **horrified** by his stories about slavery.

In 1847, he started an anti-slavery newspaper called the *North Star*. The newspaper helped to convince more and more Americans that slavery must end. But the southern states wanted to continue to own slaves. In 1861, the Civil War started when most of the slave-owning states **seceded** from, or left, the United States.

(continued)



Name _____

Date _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

During the Civil War



When the Civil War started in 1861, freeing the slaves was not the main goal of the Union. Eleven of the fifteen slave states had seceded. But four border states remained (as well as a new state, West Virginia). Many Northerners thought that if Lincoln freed the slaves, these border states would also leave the Union and join the Confederacy. Then, the North would have to fight against an even stronger enemy.

Frederick Douglass completely disagreed with this. During the first years of the war he urged Lincoln to free the slaves. He also urged Lincoln to let African Americans join the Union army as soldiers. He used his power as a speaker and newspaper writer to change the minds of Lincoln and many northerners. In August, 1861, he wrote in his newspaper why he thought it was wrong not to allow African Americans to fight:

Why does the government reject the Negro? Is he not a man? Can he not wield a sword, fire a gun, march . . . and obey orders like any other?

He then wrote these famous words: "This is no time to fight only with your white hand, and allow your black hand to remain tied." The Union had a series of losses on the battlefields from Bull Run to Fredericksburg. These finally convinced Lincoln that Douglass was

right. So, Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. This **emancipated**, or set free, the slaves in the Confederate states. The same month, Lincoln agreed to untie the "black hand" of the Union by arming African Americans. Now Douglass used his newspaper to get African Americans in the North to join the Union Army. In March 1863, he wrote a famous article called "Men of Color to Arms." He was also hired to recruit African-American soldiers. He used his power as a speaker to convince many to join—including his two sons, Charles and Lewis. These first all-black regiments showed their bravery on July 30, 1863, at Fort Wagner, South Carolina. (See "William Carney," page 75)



Douglass's two sons, Lewis and Charles, were among the many African Americans he recruited to fight for the Union.

Name _____

Date _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

After this famous battle, Douglass's son Lewis wrote, "If I die I die in a good cause. [If] we had a hundred thousand colored troops we would put an end to this war." But many blacks did not join because of **discrimination** against them in the Union army. Black troops had to do the hardest work. They also received less pay than the white troops. Douglass wanted to meet with President Lincoln to try to solve this problem.

In August 1863, he became the first black leader in U.S. history to advise the president. The president asked him about his opinion on the use of black troops in the war. Douglass said he was glad they were being given the chance to fight. But he complained that they were still paid only half as much as white soldiers. They also could not become officers. Douglass wrote later that the president treated him with great respect:

Mr. Lincoln listened with patience and silence to all I had to say. He was serious and even troubled by what I had said.

Lincoln promised that he would try to make sure that black soldiers got paid the same as whites. He also said he would make Douglass the first black officer if his secretary of war agreed. Later, the Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, said that he agreed. Unfortunately, Stanton was not honest about this. The offer never came. (See "Martin Delany," page 23.)

A year later, on August 19, 1864, Douglass met with President Lincoln again. This time Lincoln asked for Douglass's help on a major project. Lincoln was afraid that if he lost the election in November, the new president would try to end the war without ending slavery. Therefore, Lincoln wanted to try to help as many slaves escape from the South as possible. Someone like Douglass, he said, could set up offices on the border ready to receive runaway slaves.

Douglass talked with his friends. Then he sent Lincoln a plan to carry out this idea. Lincoln got news of two great Union victories in the South on the same day that Douglass's letter arrived. General Sherman had captured Atlanta, Georgia, and Admiral Farragut had captured Mobile Bay. These victories ensured that Lincoln would be reelected. The North would win the war and slavery would be ended. Douglass's help would not be needed.

Douglass met with Lincoln one more time—at his March 1865 Inaugural Ball. Twice policemen tried to keep Douglass out of the White House because he was black! When Lincoln heard this, he told them to let Douglass in right away. When they met, Lincoln asked the great African-American orator what he thought of his inaugural speech. Lincoln added, "There is no man in the country whose opinions I value more than yours." This was a great compliment for a runaway slave who had taught himself to read!

(continued)



Name _____

Date _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

After the Civil War



The Civil War did give freedom to the slaves. But it did not bring them equality. Douglass would spend much of his life after the war fighting for this equality. Sadly, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865. After that, Douglass did not have as much **influence**.

The new president, Andrew Johnson, allowed the southern states to pass laws called Black Codes. These laws took away many of the rights that Frederick Douglass wanted for his people. Some of these Black Codes stopped African Americans from voting. If they could vote, Douglass felt, then they could help pass more equal laws. In September 1870, he returned to Washington to start a newspaper. It called attention to the **injustice** of the Black Codes. But many of these laws stayed in place until the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King, Jr., in the 1950s and 1960s.

Douglass continued to speak and write about the need for equality. Meanwhile, he worked in many jobs that had previously only been held by white

Americans. He wanted to show that blacks were just as capable as whites of doing any job. In January 1871, he sailed to a Caribbean nation now called the Dominican Republic as a government representative. In March 1874, he became the first African-American bank president when he was asked to head a government bank for ex-slaves.

After a short time on this job, he was appointed in 1877 to be the Marshal of the District of Columbia. This was an important job, similar to being a governor of a state. It also required the U.S. Senate to approve an African American for a government position for the first time ever.

His final important government job was as **ambassador** to Haiti, an independent black-ruled island in the Caribbean. On June 25, 1889, he became one of the first African-American ambassadors in U.S. history.

Frederick Douglass was interested in all the major social problems of the time. He was active in the struggle for women's right to vote. On February 25, 1895, the aging Douglass gave a long speech about women's equality. Afterward, he died in his home. Thus, Frederick Douglass can be said to have **exhausted** his last breath for equality.



Name _____

Date _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Vocabulary Review



Crossword puzzle grid with 17 numbered starting points for words.

Word List

- adviser, ambassador, ancestors, disobedient, discrimination, emancipated, exhausted, forbidden, horrified, influence, injustice, orator, plantations, recruit, sack, seceded, whipped

Across

- 1. She is an excellent writer and a powerful _____.
4. Millions of slaves worked on _____.
8. The child was punished for being _____.
9. The teacher tried to _____ students to help clean the school.
11. Cheating on the test was _____.
13. She was _____ when she saw her grade on the quiz.
14. Letting the murderer go free was a terrible _____.
16. Her dream was to become the _____ to Spain.
17. Martin Luther King, Jr., protested against _____.

Down

- 2. The student body president asked me to be her _____.
3. The apples came in a large _____.
5. Do you have any famous _____?
6. The southern states _____ from the Union.
7. The rider _____ the horse to make it go faster.
10. Lincoln only _____ the Confederate states.
12. Most teachers have a lot of _____ over their students.
15. He _____ his breath yelling at the noisy students.

Name _____

Date _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Understanding the Biography



★ *Before the Civil War*

1. What country do we think Douglass's ancestors came from?

2. Name three things that Douglass did to try to end slavery:

3. Describe what it was like to live as a slave on a plantation.

4. Do you think Frederick Douglass would have learned to read and write if he had not gone to the city? Explain your answer.

★ *During the Civil War*

1. How many times did Douglass meet President Lincoln? _____

2. Name two ways in which African-American soldiers were discriminated against.

(continued)

