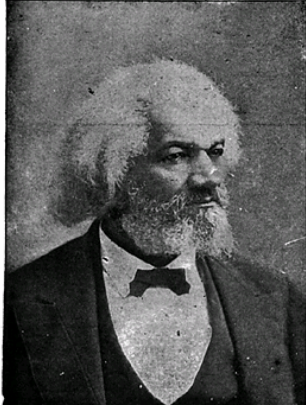


Name _____ Date _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS



Frederick Douglass was born as Frederick Baily in 1818 in Maryland. He was born a slave. His mother worked long hours and he rarely saw her. She died shortly after he turned seven years old.

One of his owners read aloud to him. Although he was a slave, he learned that reading and writing were a way for him to be free. He taught himself to read and write.

Young Frederick grew up with many masters, some kind and some cruel. He dreamed constantly of freedom. In his early twenties, he ran away from Maryland to New York, where he finally lived as a free man. Because he was afraid of being caught and sent back to Maryland, he changed his name to Frederick Douglass.

Frederick Douglass became an **abolitionist**, a person who fights against slavery. He was an inspirational public speaker – funny and dramatic. He traveled around the United States and even to England, telling stories of his own experience as a slave and the goals of the abolitionists. Thousands of people came to hear him when he spoke.

As he traveled, Douglass became interested in other causes as well, especially women's rights, prison reform, and **temperance** (not drinking alcohol). Some of his interests were controversial, but his passion and skill as a speaker and writer persuaded many people. He once wrote, "I prayed for twenty years but received no answer until I prayed with my legs."

Douglass was thrilled to see the Thirteenth Amendment, which ended slavery, pass into law in 1865. Unfortunately, the end of slavery did not mean the end of the battle for equal rights for blacks. Douglass continued to write. He wrote three autobiographies and countless articles. He also continued to travel and lecture about the need for equal treatment for black people.

When he died at the age of 77, Frederick Douglass had lived a lifetime of tireless fighting. The legacy of his battle for fairness for all people lives on in his words and his memory.

Name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions about *FREDERICK DOUGLASS*

1. When and where was Frederick Douglass born?
 - a. He was born in New York in 1818
 - b. He was born in England in 1918
 - c. He was born in Maryland in 1918
 - d. He was born in Maryland in 1818

2. What is he most famous for?
 - a. He was a slave
 - b. He was an actor
 - c. He was an abolitionist
 - d. He was against alcoholism

3. How could the quote, “I prayed for twenty years but received no answer until I prayed with my legs,” best be rephrased?
 - a. If you ask for something and don’t get it, you should run away.
 - b. If you want anything, be ready to work for it, not just wish for it.
 - c. You have to pray on your knees if you really want something.
 - d. It usually takes at least twenty years to get something you want.

4. What does his interest in equal rights for women tell us?
 - a. It shows that he cared about equality for everyone
 - b. It shows that he liked women
 - c. It shows that he liked talking about many different things
 - d. None of the above

Frederick Douglass wrote, “Without a struggle, there can be no progress.” Do you think this is true? Explain your answer.

Name _____ Date _____

Answers to *FREDERICK DOUGLASS*

1. d

2. c

3. b

4. a

responses to the quotation will vary; accept reasonable answers