

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

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FREDERICK DOUGLASS

EARLY LIFE

Born into slavery in Maryland in February 1818, Frederick Douglass faced a challenging start in life. His mother, separated from him early on, passed away when he was seven, and he never knew his father.

Frederick Douglass faced a bold escape on September 3, 1838, to a free state where the shackles of oppression no longer bind him. The stakes were high; capture could mean death or a return to the

clutches of slavery. Success in reaching New York, Douglass noted, marked the beginning of a new chapter in his remarkable journey to emancipation.



ESCAPE

In a daring quest for freedom, Frederick Douglass embarked on a perilous journey that would change the course of his life. Faced with the chains of slavery, Douglass met Anna Murray, a free woman. Motivated by his desire for liberty, he executed a bold escape on September 3, 1838, to a free state where the shackles of oppression no longer bind him. The stakes were



SPEECHES

Embracing his newfound freedom, Frederick Douglass became a powerful voice against slavery and inequality through his captivating speeches. In 1841, he joined the abolitionist movement, speaking passionately at meetings and sharing his harrowing story of life as a slave to articulate the brutality of slavery. As an advocate for its abolition, he made him a prominent figure in the fight for freedom.



Douglass's commitment extended beyond spoken words. In 1845, he penned his autobiography, providing a firsthand account of the defining experiences he endured in bondage. Despite escaping slavery, Douglass found himself at risk, as laws of the time allowed for forced return to Maryland if caught. This threat prompted Douglass to sail to England. For two years, he not only delivered important speeches but also garnered support and funds for the abolitionist cause. The journey solidified his status as an international advocate for freedom. The year following his return to the United States in 1847, Douglass settled in Rochester, New York, and started the newspaper North Star, which became a crucial organ of the Underground Railroad, offering refuge to runaway slaves. Douglass continued his tireless efforts during the Civil War, organizing African American troops and meeting with President Abraham Lincoln to advocate for their rights.

Even after the war, Douglass remained dedicated to the cause of equality. His speeches resonated with timeless messages about treating everyone with fairness and dignity. Despite personal challenges, including the loss of his wife Anna in 1882, Douglass never wavered in his commitment to justice. His return to Helen Pitts, a white woman, faced criticism from some quarters, but Douglass continued his advocacy until his last speech on February 20, 1895, in Washington, D.C.

Douglass's journey to literacy and freedom was marked by resilience. After initially denied literacy, he capitalized on the opportunity to begin reading. This pursuit, driven by a desire for slaves to learn to read, led him to found Douglass's School for Slaves. Engaged primarily in facing escape, Douglass dedicated only years to improving literacy and

class, a learning advocate's power to come.

CIVIL WAR

In 1861, as tensions over slavery ignited the Civil War, Douglass played a vital role in advocating for African Americans' rights. Settled in New York, Douglass started the newspaper North Star, which became a beacon for the abolitionist cause. His Railroad, used as a sanctuary for runaway slaves, became a key site for organized action. Douglass mobilized African Americans to fight for their freedom during the war.

Despite the challenges to the end of slavery, Douglass continued his advocacy, using the structure of his speeches to advocate for civil rights. The legacy of Douglass's efforts, including his support for the Civil Rights Movement, remains a powerful reminder of the struggle for equality. His words, etched in history, continue to inspire people worldwide, and monuments stand testament to his enduring legacy.

LEGACY

Frederick Douglass, a tireless advocate for equality, left an indelible mark on the fight against slavery and the pursuit of civil rights. After the Civil War, Douglass continued his work in organizing African Americans and meeting with President Abraham Lincoln. Douglass served as an unwavering commitment to the cause. His North Star newspaper served as a voice for runaway slaves and the Underground Railroad. Douglass's dedication to the freedom of others, Douglass' writings, particularly his autobiography detailing his life as a slave, and his role in the North Star, continue to inspire significantly to this day. In the face of Douglass's sorrow, including the loss of his first wife, Helen Pitts, and his second wife, Anna Murray Douglass, Douglass challenged social norms. His advocacy for both wife and the continuation of his work. Frederick Douglass remains a towering figure in history, the author of many inspiring speeches, and his words, monuments erected in his honor, continue the ongoing pursuit of equality. For all, a cause he championed throughout his remarkable life.

READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W
VERSIONS INCLUDED



Name _____

Date _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Comprehension Questions

Directions: Choose the right answer.

1. Where was Frederick Douglass born, and in what year?
 - a. Virginia, 1808
 - b. Maryland, 1808
 - c. New York, 1805
 - d. Georgia, 1805
2. How did Frederick Douglass continue his education despite being forbidden to learn to read?
 - a. Attended secret schools
 - b. Traded lessons for biscuits with poor children
 - c. Taught by his grandmother
 - d. Stole books from his master's house
3. In which state did Frederick Douglass escape to on September 3, 1838?
 - a. Maryland
 - b. New York
 - c. Massachusetts
 - d. Pennsylvania
4. What significance did the "Underground Railroad" have in Douglass' play during the

7. What did Frederick Douglass continue to do until his death on
February 20, 1895?
a. Give speeches
b. Travel around Railroad stations
c. Equal rights
d. None of the above

erick Douglass give his last speech?

C.

18

erick Douglass's Rochester home symbolize
'Ground Railroad' era?
a. Runaway slaves
b. Meetings
c. For the North Star
d. Conventions

erick Douglass pass away?
/ 20, 1875
/ 20, 1885
/ 20, 1895
y 20, 1905

ENSION QUESTIONS:

significance of Frederick Douglass's escape on
September 3, 1838. How did this event mark a turning point in his life?

erick Douglass's role during the Civil War. How did he
contribute to the cause of African Americans, and what impact did he have
with President Lincoln now?

on the challenges Frederick Douglass faced in educating and
enslaved. How did he overcome these challenges, and
did others play in his quest for knowledge?

the legacy of Frederick Douglass as an abolitionist and civil
rights advocate. How did his writings and newspaper contribute to the
movement, and what impact did he have on the
and Railroad?

the societal challenges Frederick Douglass faced in his
life, including the loss of his first wife, Anna, and his
move to Helen Pitts. How did his personal choices reflect his
commitment to his beliefs?

Answers Key

MCQ ANSWERS:

1. b. Maryland, 1808
- (Source: "Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in February 1808 in Maryland.")
2. b. Traded lessons for biscuits with poor children
- (Source: "He gave poor children biscuits in exchange for their help learning to read")
3. b. New York
- (Source: "Frederick tried to escape again on September 3, 1838. He disguised himself as a sailor and headed north by boat and train.")
4. c. Organized African Americans and met with President Lincoln
- (Source: "Douglass organized a group of African Americans to fight in the war. He fought for their rights. Douglass met with President Abraham Lincoln three times during the war.")
5. c. North Star newspaper
- (Source: "Returning to the U.S. in 1847, Douglass settled in Rochester, New York, starting the newspaper North Star.")
6. b. Helen Pitts, interracial marriage
- (Source: "His new wife, Helen Pitts, was white, which bothered some people.")
7. d. All of the above
- (Source: "His advocacy did not wane, and he continued to give powerful speeches until his passing on February 20, 1895.")
8. b. Washington, D.C.
- (Source: "He gave his last speech on February 20, 1895 in Washington, D.C.")
9. a. A safe haven for runaway slaves
- (Source: "His home was a stopping place on the Underground Railroad. Runaway slaves were able to hide there until they could safely travel to the next safe home.")
10. c. February 20, 1895
- (Source: "Frederick died later that day at age 77")

MCQ'S & QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY
INCLUDED

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NO-PREP !

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EDITABLE

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