

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Fredrick Douglass**

Fredrick Douglass was born in 1818 as a slave. Since he was a slave, he was bought and sold many times and was unable to spend time with his family. He had many different masters and different experiences. He had a master that beat him daily and did not feed him enough food. Another master's wife taught Douglass to read and write. This gift would help end slavery in the United States.

Douglass tried to escape several times from slavery. Finally in 1838, he succeeded. He made it to New York. While in New York, he met a free African-American woman who he married. They had four children and lived in Massachusetts. Douglass was very active in the abolitionist movement. He traveled around Massachusetts giving speeches for the Antislavery Society. Douglass was a powerful speaker and moved many people with stories of his experiences as a slave. He bravely wrote an autobiography, which could have killed him since he was a runaway slave. To protect himself, he moved to Europe where he traveled around giving lectures. He used this money to buy his freedom when he returned to the United States. Once back in the states, he helped convince other African-Americans to join the Union army and fight in the Civil War. After the war, he was appointed to several government positions including the US marshal for the District of Columbia. Douglass died in 1895. He showed that one person can make a difference.

Highlight the text to prove your answers.

1. About how old was Douglass when he escaped from slavery? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was Douglass' greatest achievement? Support your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why could writing an autobiography have Douglass killed?