

# Frederick Douglass

**Vocabulary:**

**Abolish** – To do away with

**Abolitionist** – A person who favors doing away with an institution

**Appointed** – To assign, designate, or set apart

**Appointment** – The act of appointing or designating someone for an office or position

**Slavery** – Holding people as property to work and serve others

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey Douglass was one of the most important African-American leaders of the 19th century. He was an **abolitionist**, speaker, and writer who fought against **slavery** and for women's rights. He was also the first African-American citizen **appointed** to offices of high rank in the U.S. government.

Douglass was born into slavery in 1817. His mother was a slave, and his father was white. In 1838, he left Maryland to escape slavery and moved to Massachusetts, where he soon became an international figure in the fight against this evil institution. Douglass lectured against slavery in the U.S. and Great Britain. During the Civil War, he met with President Abraham Lincoln many times. They became good friends who often talked about Lincoln's efforts to **abolish** slavery in this country.

In 1847, Douglass started an anti-slavery newspaper called *The North Star* (later called *Frederick Douglass' Paper*) that was published until 1860. Afterward, Douglass was appointed to several important positions. In 1871, he served as assistant secretary of the Santo Domingo Commission. He became U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia in 1877 and then the District's Recorder of Deeds in 1881. His last government **appointment** was from 1889 to 1891 as U.S. minister and consul general to Haiti. Ever since his death in 1895, people have kept on reading his brave speeches and his autobiography, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*.

**If you could ask Frederick Douglass one question about his life, what would it be?**

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**NAME: CLASS:**

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