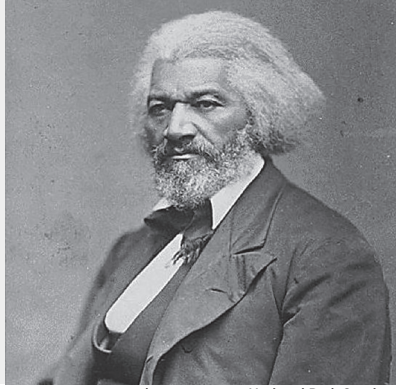


## Who Was Frederick Douglass?



photos courtesy National Park Service

Two hundred years ago, in Maryland, a baby was born to a female slave. When he died 77 years later, he was a famous American who had worked for equal rights for African-Americans and women, who had been a newspaper writer and editor, and who had advised presidents, including Abraham Lincoln.

### Early life

The little boy had a big name: Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. His mother lived on a different plantation, and she died when he was just 7 years old. He never knew his father, who was white.

When Frederick was 8 years old, he was sent to Baltimore to work as a personal servant. He figured out that literacy, or knowing how to read and write, was the key to freedom. Most slave owners wouldn't let their slaves learn to read. They thought learning would make slaves harder to control. But Frederick taught himself to read and write.

Frederick bought a book when he was 12, "The Columbian Orator." It was a book of speeches and essays about people's rights. It not only helped him learn to read and speak better, but it gave him ideas about freedom.

### Escape to freedom

At the age of 20, Frederick disguised himself as a sailor and got on a train going north, to freedom. When he arrived in New York City, he changed his name to Frederick Douglass in order to escape slave catchers.

He married Anna Murray, a free black woman who had helped him escape, and they settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts. They had five children: three boys and two girls.

Douglass found work and started speaking at meetings of abolitionists, or people who want to stop slavery. He became famous, but he worried about being captured and re-enslaved.

For two years, he traveled in Europe, speaking and selling his first book, "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass." Abolitionists in the U.S. offered to buy his freedom, and he returned home.

### Working for others

Douglass and his family moved to Rochester, New York, and he began working for women's rights and helping with the Underground Railroad, a network of people helping slaves escape to freedom. He started his own newspaper, The North Star.

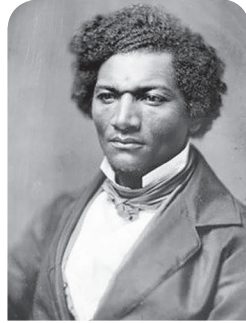
During the Civil War, Douglass recruited African-Americans to fight and met with Lincoln to encourage equal pay and treatment for them. After the war, Douglass supported amendments to the U.S. Constitution that abolished slavery and guaranteed voting rights for all men.

### Mini Fact:

The National Park Service will celebrate Douglass' 200th birthday with events at Cedar Hill in February.



Cedar Hill, Douglass' home in Washington, D.C., is a National Historic Site today.



Douglass as a young man

### Public life

Frederick and Anna moved to Washington, D.C., in 1872, where he held many public offices, including U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia — a position he held under five presidents. He continued to speak and write in support of racial equality and women's rights.

In 1882, Anna died suddenly. Two years later, Douglass married Helen Pitts, a white woman who was the daughter of abolitionists.

Douglass was married to Helen for 11 years before his death in 1895. After his death, she worked to keep Cedar Hill as a memorial to him.



Helen P. Douglass

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [nps.gov/frdo/index.htm](http://nps.gov/frdo/index.htm)
- [bit.ly/MPDouglass](http://bit.ly/MPDouglass)

### At the library:

- "Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History" by Walter Dean Myers
- "Who Was Frederick Douglass?" by April Jones Prince

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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Frederick Douglass are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ABOLITIONIST, ADVISER,  
ANNA, DOUGLASS,  
EDITOR, EQUAL, ESCAPE,  
FATHER, FREDERICK,  
FREEDOM, HELEN,  
LITERACY, MARYLAND,  
MOTHER, READ, RIGHTS,  
SLAVE, SPEECH, WRITER.

W M O D E E R F F A T H E R Y  
A B O L I T I O N I S T V L A  
A N N A U L D O U G L A S S D  
H U E V A L S S T H G I R A V  
C G F R E D E R I C K P W C I  
E E P A C S E A E D I T O R S  
E B B J C W R I T E R D D G E  
P E Q U A L I T E R A C Y K R  
S L M A R Y L A N D D A E R A  
J H E L E N S R E H T O M G K

## Cook's Corner

### Snazzy Snack Crackers

#### You'll need:

- 3/4 cup canola oil
- 1 (1-ounce) packet ranch dressing mix
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

- 2 (4-ounce) sleeves saltine crackers



#### What to do:

1. Mix canola oil, ranch dressing mix and cayenne pepper in a medium-size bowl.
2. Place crackers in a large plastic zipper bag.
3. Pour oil mixture over crackers. Make sure bag is sealed tightly.
4. Lay bag flat and gently spread mixture over crackers to soak in.
5. Rotate the plastic bag every 15 minutes for 2 hours to allow oil to spread evenly.
6. Serve crackers with sliced or spreadable cheese. Serves 6.

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## Mini Jokes



Ollie: Did you hear the joke about the onion?  
Olive: Yes! I laughed so hard I cried!

## Eco Note



Do the sun's natural cycles affect our climate? We know that our sun has an 11-year cycle. It is quiet for a while, then it gradually gets more active, up to its "solar maximum." Then it settles down again. Even so, its energy output varies only a tiny fraction from lowest to highest output. We also think the sun's energy output may vary over longer periods. Scientists aren't sure about longer-term cycles, though. That's because they have been closely monitoring the sun for only about 40 years.

adapted from [climatekids.nasa.gov](http://climatekids.nasa.gov)

## For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about Frederick Douglass' 200th birthday.

**Teachers:** For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bit.ly/MPstandards](http://bit.ly/MPstandards). And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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1. White crystals of ice that form when it is very cold (10 letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. A way to describe a cold winter's day (6 letter adj)

□ □ □ □ □ □

3. Something made of brick or stone where a fire can burn safely in a home (9 letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. How we measure the degrees of hot or cold (11 letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

**ROOTONYM®**  
by Jan and Carey Orr Cook

DIRECTIONS: Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blank.

1. Frank watched many \_\_\_\_\_ fall from the sky.
2. When it is \_\_\_\_\_, Karen wears mittens and a scarf.
3. Daddy built a warm fire in the \_\_\_\_\_ in the family room.
4. Vicky heard on the radio that the \_\_\_\_\_ would be freezing.

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Answers: Snowflakes, Chilly, Fireplace, Temperature

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