

Frederick Douglass

By Colin, John & Max



Have you ever heard of Frederick Douglass? Frederick Douglass was a courageous man and he did many heroic things. He was born into slavery and one day escaped. As a free man, he spoke out against **injustices** in America. He supported the **abolition** of slavery, voting rights for all, and women's rights. He was the only Black man who attended the First Women's Suffrage Convention. He taught many enslaved people how to read, and Douglass also used his life to help those without a voice be heard. Keep reading to learn more about Frederick Douglass and all the things he accomplished during his lifetime.

Frederick Douglass was a free man, but it wasn't always that way. He grew up as a slave, but didn't allow that to stop him from leading and educating others. He was taught to read by his slave master's wife until she was forced to stop. Frederick Douglass was determined to keep learning to read by watching others, even if that got him in trouble. Douglass spent his whole life fighting for freedom and equality for people around the world. He became an influential speaker at anti-slavery meetings, he started a newspaper and attended women's rights conventions. He was such an influential person that he became an advisor to Abraham Lincoln. He helped Lincoln understand that one of the goals of the Civil War should be the freedom of slaves. Frederick Douglass wrote a book about his life as a slave. People looked up to his book and began to support his ideas; even white people! His book became popular not only in the United States, but around the entire world. Friends of Frederick became worried that the fame of his book would attract the attention of his old slave master. To escape the danger he faced in America, Frederick traveled to Europe where his supporters raised funds to buy his freedom, making him a free man.

You might think that escaping from slavery would be enough, but Frederick Douglass believed that you weren't really free unless you had the right to vote. He thought it was wrong that only white men could vote. At the time, Black people and women could not vote, but his fight for voting rights included everyone! In 1848, there was a very famous meeting in Seneca Falls, NY called the Seneca Falls Convention. It was the first women's rights convention and had over 300 attendees. Frederick Douglass was one of the only men there, and was the only free Black man in attendance. Douglass spoke in support of women being able to vote at the meeting. After the convention, he continued to be a part of the women's suffrage movement and helped with their struggle. In 1866, he joined Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony to create the American Equal Rights Association. They came together to fight for **universal suffrage**, which means that every person should have the right to vote. Even though Frederick Douglass was famous for many things, he was also a very important part of the fight for voting rights in America.

As you have learned, Frederick Douglass was a very ambitious person. He helped everyone, from enslaved people all the way to President Lincoln. His story shows us all that no matter where you start in life, you can shine if you try your best. He was a great speaker, writer and human being! During his time, he became one of the most famous people in the world! So now you know that Frederick Douglass was a great person who changed the world. You should also know that if you want to, you can help change the world too!