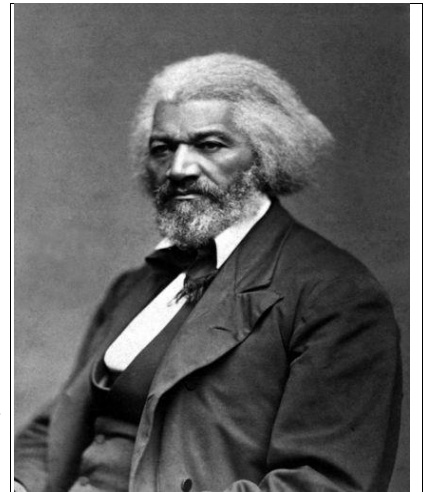


# Frederick Douglass

He was born a slave in Maryland in 1818. He never went to school, but he learned to read and write. Frederick Douglass would become the most famous professor in America, writing books and speaking to thousands around the country. But first he needed to make himself free.

When he was twenty years old, Douglass *escaped* slavery. It was illegal for a slave to learn to read, but Douglass read *constantly*. He also wrote constantly. He wrote for at least five newspapers and talked to people around the US about slavery.



Frederick Douglass, 1818 - 1895

When he was 27, Frederick Douglass wrote his *autobiography*. A lot of white people believed slavery wasn't so bad. They thought black people weren't smart, and couldn't do anything by themselves. Douglass's book taught them the truth. A few people just couldn't believe a black person could write a book so powerful and beautiful. His autobiography sold thousands of copies.

Frederick Douglass did more than fight against slavery. He also fought for women's rights. Most women couldn't vote in the 1800s. They couldn't have the same jobs as men. Douglass was one of the first important men to say women should have the same rights as men. When he died at the age of 77, Frederick Douglass was almost as famous for speaking about women's rights as he was for speaking against slavery.

## Vocabulary

1. *escape* – verb – To get away from something bad. “I escaped a bad marriage when I was 25.”
2. *constantly* – adverb – All the time. “I’m constantly looking for a better job.”
3. *autobiography* – noun – A book you write about your life. “Only I can write my autobiography.”