

# Frederick Douglass | Worksheet



**Warm-Up Activity:** Write down a problem and one solution. Then, in a small group, take turns sharing your problems with one another. The other members of your group should suggest solutions to each problem. Write down two other solutions that you received from your partners.

My Problem: _____
My Solution: _____
2nd Solution: _____
3rd Solution: _____

### Word Bank

amendments	Constitution	knowledge	freedom	
unite	slavery	southern	North	radical
northern	freedom	slave	abolish	

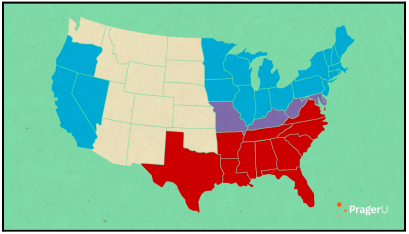
**Directions:** Use the word bank to complete the following fill-in-the-blank questions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ means to end. Frederick Douglass wanted to get rid of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Slavery had existed everywhere in the world for thousands of years, but it was especially disappointing in America because it was founded on the idea of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Frederick Douglass taught himself to read and write because he believed "\_\_\_\_\_ is the pathway from slavery to \_\_\_\_\_."
4. When Douglass was 21, he escaped to the \_\_\_\_\_, where slavery was against the law, and became a free American fighting for all to be free.

Scan to watch episode:



5. The red region on the map represents the \_\_\_\_\_ states that were dependent on \_\_\_\_\_ labor, and did not want to abolish it.



6. The Founding Fathers wanted to end slavery, but their first priority was getting all 13 colonies to \_\_\_\_\_ as one country.
7. All of the \_\_\_\_\_ states outlawed slavery by 1804, and buying slaves from Africa was outlawed for the whole country four years later.
8. Frederick Douglass wanted to work for change inside of the American system. He believed that “The \_\_\_\_\_ is a glorious liberty document!”
9. William Lloyd Garrison’s approach to abolition is called “\_\_\_\_\_.” That means a complete fundamental change of everything.
10. America has the same Constitution today as the one during Douglass’ time in 1852, but with some changes called \_\_\_\_\_.

**Short Response:**

1. In the video, Layla asks, “How can there be slavery in America when the Founding Fathers said that all men are created equal?” How does Frederick Douglass explain this?

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2. According to Frederick Douglass, why did it take the southern states so long to abolish slavery?

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3. Why didn't Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison agree on how to solve problems? Explain the differences in their approaches to problem-solving.

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4. **Making Connections:** Frederick Douglass was a famous abolitionist who worked hard to effectively end slavery while preserving the American system.

- a. In the video, what advice does Frederick Douglass offer when Leo and Layla ask, "Do you think we should be activists, just not radical ones?"

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- b. How can you better approach problem-solving or creating change like Frederick Douglass did? Consider something you are passionate about in your response. Give a specific example and explain.

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## Frederick Douglass | Answer Key

**Warm-Up Activity:** Write down a problem and one solution. Then, in a small group, take turns sharing your problems with one another. The other members of your group should suggest solutions to each problem. Write down two other solutions that you received from your partners.

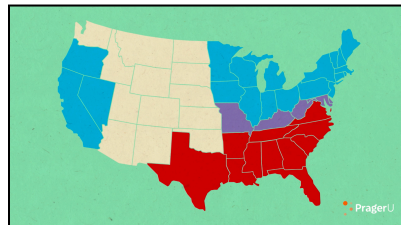
Check students' work for completion.

### Word Bank

amendments	Constitution	knowledge	freedom	
unite	slavery	southern	North	radical
northern	freedom	slave	abolish	

**Directions:** Use the word bank to complete the following fill-in-the-blank questions.

1. Abolish means to end. Frederick Douglass wanted to get rid of slavery.
2. Slavery had existed everywhere in the world for thousands of years, but it was especially disappointing in America because it was founded on the idea of freedom.
3. Frederick Douglass taught himself to read and write because he believed "knowledge is the pathway from slavery to freedom."
4. When Douglass was 21, he escaped to the North, where slavery was against the law, and became a free American fighting for all to be free.
5. The red region on the map represents the southern states that were dependent on slave labor, and did not want to abolish it.



6. The Founding Fathers wanted to end slavery, but their first priority was getting all 13 colonies to unite as one country.
7. All of the northern states outlawed slavery by 1804, and buying slaves from Africa was outlawed for the whole country four years later.
8. Frederick Douglass wanted to work for change inside of the American system. He believed that "The Constitution is a glorious liberty document!"
9. William Lloyd Garrison's approach to abolition is called "radical." That means a complete fundamental change of everything.
10. America has the same Constitution today as the one during Douglass' time in 1852, but with some changes called amendments.

## Short Response:

1. In the video, Layla asks, “How can there be slavery in America when the Founding Fathers said that all men are created equal?” How does Frederick Douglass explain this?  
Frederick Douglass explained that the Founding Fathers recognized slavery as evil and harmful but prioritized uniting the 13 colonies into one nation, leading to a compromise. Although they hoped this system would gradually end slavery, immediate abolition would have risked the southern colonies forming a separate slave-owning country.
2. According to Frederick Douglass, why did it take the southern states so long to abolish slavery?  
Douglass noted that the complex issue of slavery, prevalent worldwide, required careful and gradual solutions. It was America that initiated the global dialogue on ending slavery.
3. Why didn’t Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison agree on how to solve problems? Explain the differences in their approaches to problem-solving.  
William Lloyd Garrison, known as a radical, demanded a complete overhaul of the American system, refusing any compromise and insisting on the immediate abolition of slavery. In contrast, Frederick Douglass worked within the system, believing in the Constitution as a foundation for liberty and aiming to persuade Americans to uphold its true principles.
4. **Making Connections:** Frederick Douglass was a famous abolitionist who worked hard to effectively end slavery while preserving the American system.
  - a. In the video, what advice does Frederick Douglass offer when Leo and Layla ask, “Do you think we should be activists, just not radical ones?”  
Sample Answer: Douglass explains that even America, where people are free and everyone is equal under the law, no place is perfect, so it’s good to listen to activists who want to improve things. Douglass advises that it’s important that activists are willing to work inside of the system and understand that change usually requires patience and compromise.
  - b. How can you approach problem-solving or creating change like Frederick Douglass did? Consider something you are passionate about in your response. Give a specific example and explain.  
Sample Answer: I am passionate about helping animal shelters find good homes for pets. I can be like Frederick Douglass by being more patient in waiting for change and volunteering at the animal shelters in my community because I know that will be the most helpful thing I can do for them right now!