

Frederick Douglass

- Born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey
- Born into slavery in Talbot County, Maryland around 1818
- He had no accurate knowledge of his age however, he recalls his master saying he was about 17 years of age during 1835.
- His mother was a slave named Harriet Bailey, his father was a white man, believed to be his master however, this was only a rumor.
- Later in life he changed his name to Douglass, he chose his name from a character in Sir Walter Scott's *The Lady of the Lake*.
- Separated from his mother as a child
- Raised partly by his grandmother Betty Bailey
- First exposed to education by the wife of one of his masters Mrs. Auld, who taught him his A,B,C. When her husband got wind of what was going on he put a stop to it immediately.
- Spent seven years in Baltimore as a slave but in more comfortable conditions
- Worked as a caulker at a shipyard
- Sent back to the country, where he was hired out to a farm run by a notoriously brutal "slavebreaker" named Edward Covey where he was whipped daily and barely fed, Douglass was "broken in body, soul, and spirit."
- On January 1, 1836, he made a resolution that he would be free by the end of the year.
- He planned an escape. But early in April he was jailed after his plan was discovered
- 1838, while living in Baltimore and working at a shipyard, Douglass fled the city on September 3. Travelling by train, then steamboat, then train, he arrived in New York City the following day. Several weeks later he had settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts, living with his newlywed bride (Anna Murray Douglass whom he met in Baltimore and married in New York) under his new name, Frederick Douglass
- He disguised himself as a sailor and carried papers that showed he was a free black seaman
- Escaped at age 20
- Published abolitionist newspaper, The North Star.
- Subscribed to William Lloyd Garrison's weekly journal, the *Liberator*