

Who is Frederick Douglass?

This activity accompanies “Frederick Douglass,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 4973.

Activity Title: Who is Frederick Douglass?

Description: The students will research who Frederick Douglass was, and why Dunbar may have written a poem about him.

Subject: Social Studies

Skill: American History and Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain who Frederick Douglass was, and why Dunbar may have written a poem about him.

Materials:

- “Frederick Douglass” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Internet access or books about Frederick Douglass

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students main idea of the poem, the time period in which the poem was written, and possibly why it was written. Then, have the students work with a partner or small group to research who Frederick Douglass was. Finally, have the students write a short explanation about why they think Dunbar would have written a poem about Douglass.

