

Intermediate Activity

Frederick's Journey



By: Doreen Rappaport

Essential Questions for Consideration:

- ***What was Frederick Douglass' journey? What were some of the most influential moments in his life?***

Overview:

In this lesson, participants will create a definition of the word journey. Through a reflection on their own life journeys, as well as a mapping activity, participants will then understand the many complexities around the word “journey” by examining the life of Frederick Douglass.

Materials:

- Pen or pencil
- Paper
- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers (optional)
- *What is your journey?* Worksheet* **(See below lesson plan)**
- *Frederick Douglass' Journey Map Worksheet** **(See below lesson plan)**
- *What was Frederick's Journey Worksheet?** **(See below lesson plan)**

**** If unable to access a printer, simply have the participant complete the “What is your journey?” and “What was Frederick's journey?” on a separate piece of paper following the format. For the map work portion of the lesson, the participant can simply identify these places on a computer or cell phone screen.***

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Activity:

1. On a piece of paper, have the participant define the word “journey.” You can challenge the participant with the following questions to help them think about the word “journey.”

Is a journey a trip? Is it long or short?

Are journeys easy or difficult?

What journeys do we go on in life? (Give examples)

Do men and women have the same or different journeys? Explain.

Do we have multiple journeys in our life? If so, what are they? (Give examples)

When do journeys start or end?

- 1.) Encourage the participant to share and explain their understanding of the word journey. Discuss examples of journeys (i.e. a trip to another country, emigration to another country, or life journeys such as going to school, relationships, or starting a family)
- 2.) Give the participant the ***What is your journey? Worksheet***. Have the participant write or draw about a journey they have experienced in their life. If drawing, encourage the use of colored pencils, crayons, or markers if available.
- 3.) Have the participant share their journey writings or drawings. Revise as necessary if writing.
- 4.) Explain to the participant that they will be reading *Frederick's Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass* by Doreen Rappaport. This goal is for the participant to understand his life journey during very tragic and difficult times in American history.
- 5.) Give the participant the ***Frederick Douglass' Journey Map Worksheet***. As the participant reads/listens to the story, have them color all of the locations they hear Frederick visit throughout his life. **Some locations may have to be identified by pictures, the timeline at the back of the book, or through contextual clues.**
- 6.) Read/Listen to *Frederick's Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass*
- 7.) Have the participant share their answers to the map work and discuss the significance of what happened to Frederick in each of these locations. ***Map Answer Key: Maryland, New York, Massachusetts, Indiana, Illinois, Great Britain, Ireland, and Washington D. C.***
- 8.) Discuss with the participant the following quote from the story. Ask the participant to explain what it means and provide specific examples to support their ideas from the story.

*“Douglass travelled far-
From slave to free man,
From illiterate to educated,
From powerless to powerful.
It had been a difficult journey.”*

- 9.) Then give the participant the ***What was Frederick Douglass' journey? Worksheet***. Have the participant write or draw about what they believe Frederick's journey was. If drawing, encourage the use of colored pencils, crayons, or markers if available. Revise writing as necessary.
- 10.) Once finished, encourage the participant to share their interpretation of Frederick's journey. ***This could also be a great time to reflect on the meaning of the word “journey.” It is also an opportunity to compare and contrast their own life journey worksheet with that of Frederick's.***

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What is your journey?

Directions: **Draw a picture** or **write** about a journey you have taken.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a picture or write about a journey they have taken. The box occupies the majority of the page below the instructions.

Frederick Douglass' Journey Map

Map of the United States



Map of the World



What was Frederick Douglass' journey?

Directions: Using your map of Frederick's journey and the information learned from the story, write or draw about Frederick Douglass' journey.