

## Fun Facts about Frederick Douglass

- Frederick Douglass, the man who was once sold to the highest bidder at a slave auction, eventually became the trusted advisor to presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, and James A. Garfield.
- President Benjamin Harrison appointed him Consul-General to Haiti.
- When Frederick wrote his autobiography, he took great care to leave certain details of his escape out of the story. This, as he explained, was done so that the slave owners knew nothing of the particular steps he took to escape and could not keep other slaves from doing the same.
- In 1838, Frederick took the last name of Douglas, which he spelled “Douglass,” from a character in Sir Walter Scott’s poem, “The Lady of the Lake.”
- A clay pitcher, on which is an image of Frederick Douglass’s head created by an unknown artist during Frederick’s lifetime, is displayed in the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.
- Frederick Douglass was the first African American to buy a house in an area in Washington, D.C., restricted only to whites. His 21-room home, called Cedar Hill, is now a National Historic Site and contains 1,200 books, all part of Douglass’s personal library.