

# SOCIAL STUDIES 8 "ESCAPE TO FREEDOM"

## **A** Finding the Main Idea

One statement below expresses the main idea of the article. One statement is too general, or too broad. The other statement explains only part of the article; it is too narrow. Label the statements using the following key:

**M—Main Idea      B—Too Broad      N—Too Narrow**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Frederick Douglass was a slave who escaped to the north and gained his freedom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Frederick Douglass learned to read from Sophia Auld, one of his owners when he was a boy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery on a dangerous journey north by train using borrowed papers from a friend who was a free American sailor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **B** Recalling Facts

How well do you remember the facts in the article? Put an X in the box next to the answer that correctly completes each statement about the article.

- 1. When Douglass was sent to work for the Aulds in Maryland,
  - a. he slept on the dirt floor of an old shack.
  - b. Sophia Auld began teaching him to read.
  - c. he worked in a shipyard.
- 2. While Douglass was working in a Baltimore shipyard, he
  - a. made a plan to escape to the North.
  - b. decided to run to Pennsylvania.
  - c. thought he might be killed.
- 3. Many slaves who wanted to be free
  - a. became sailors.
  - b. borrowed a free black person's "free papers."
  - c. took trains to the North.
- 4. When Douglass was on the train to Pennsylvania,
  - a. he wore a borrowed sailor's suit.
  - b. the train conductor was rude to him.
  - c. some people recognized him.
- 5. After Douglass gained his freedom, he
  - a. became a politician.
  - b. convinced Abraham Lincoln to free the slaves.
  - c. published several books and a newspaper.

## C Making Inferences

When you combine your own experience with information from a text to draw a conclusion that is not directly stated in that text, you are making an inference. Below are five statements that may or may not be inferences based on information in the article. Label the statements using the following key:

**C—Correct Inference    F—Faulty Inference**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Frederick Douglass did not know who his father was.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Many free blacks helped slaves gain freedom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Slaves often worked for several different owners during their lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. It was illegal for slaves to ride trains.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. In Douglass's time, blacks had to ride in separate cars on trains.

## D Using Words Precisely

Each numbered sentence below contains an underlined word or phrase from the article. Following the sentence are three definitions. One definition is closest to the meaning of the underlined word. One definition is opposite or nearly opposite. Label those two definitions using the following key; do not label the remaining definition.

**C—Closest    O—Opposite or Nearly Opposite**

- 1. Douglass, who was a slave, ended up fending for himself.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. fighting for
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. caring for
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. neglecting
- 2. That story gave Douglass even more incentive to become a good reader.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. discouragement
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. practice
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. reason
- 3. It was there that he put together a bold plan.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. brave
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. cowardly
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. surprising
- 4. But the conductor's face brightened when he got to Douglass.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. changed
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. grew angry
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. cheered up

5. If McGowan noticed him, Douglass's plan would be foiled.

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. successful
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. good
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. ruined

### Author's Approach

Put an X in the box next to the correct answer.

1. The main purpose of the first paragraph is to
  - a. describe the life of a slave.
  - b. describe Frederick Douglass's background.
  - c. express an opinion about slavery.
2. What do the authors imply by saying, "Other times he fought the dogs for crumbs from under the master's table"?
  - a. Douglass was fed the same food as the dogs.
  - b. Douglass's master treated him like a dog.
  - c. Douglass was so desperate for food that he would eat the food that fell from his master's table.
3. The authors probably wrote this article in order to
  - a. make people aware of the terrible conditions in which slaves lived.
  - b. inform people about Frederick Douglass's brave escape.
  - c. explain why slave owners didn't want their slaves to learn to read.

### CONCLUSION QUESTION:

-Would you have risked your life for freedom in Canada if you were a slave? Explain.