

ARTICLES & ACTIVITIES

GRADES
2-5

Maya Angelou

Who was Maya Angelou?

Maya Angelou was a writer, poet, historian, and civil rights activist. She was also the first black American woman director of movies and plays.

Maya was born on April 4, 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri. Her poems and books have brought hope and inspiration to many people.

On May 28, 2014, Maya died at the age of 86. During her life, Maya worked for equal rights for black Americans as well as women.

Maya's Early Life

When Maya was born, her name was Marguerite Johnson. Her brother called her "my sister," but it sounded like "maya sister." "Maya" soon became a nickname that stayed with her the rest of her life.

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Maya Angelou

In 1961, Maya was asked to be a writer for the only English language newspaper in Cairo, Egypt. For the next four years, she also wrote for a newspaper in Ghana. When she returned to the United States in 1966, she started to write for television and movies.

Friends told Maya she was a great storyteller. In 1969, Maya wrote a book called *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. It tells the story of her own life until she was 17. Maya wrote poetry and more movie scripts. She acted in plays and in movies, too. She won a lot of awards for her acting and her writing.

Maya's Later Life

Maya never went to college, but she became a college professor in 1981. She taught American Studies at Wake Forest University. Her students called her Dr. Angelou.

In 1993, Bill Clinton became



BUNDLE

BIOGRAPHIES & REPORT



KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE
WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

 **2 versions of Biography Passages** (illustrated & text-only)

 **Vocabulary Posters & Cut-and-Paste Sorts**

 **Graphic Organizers**

 **Reading Comprehension Questions**

 **Cloze & Sequencing Worksheets**

 **Report Writing Pages**

 **QR Codes** to kid-friendly videos & websites

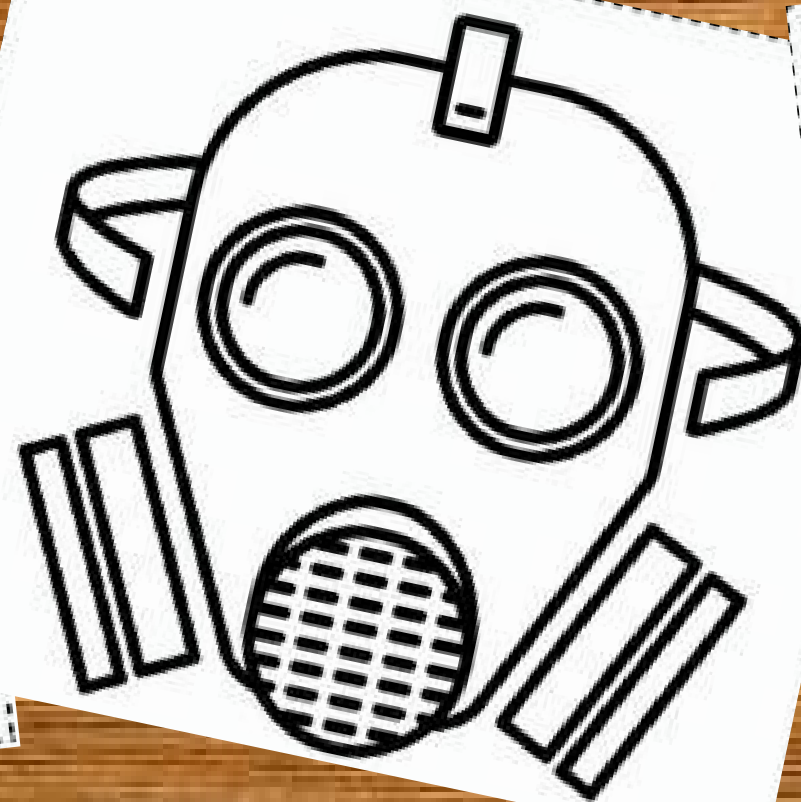
 **With & Without** Cute Graphics options

 **Answer Keys** for all activities

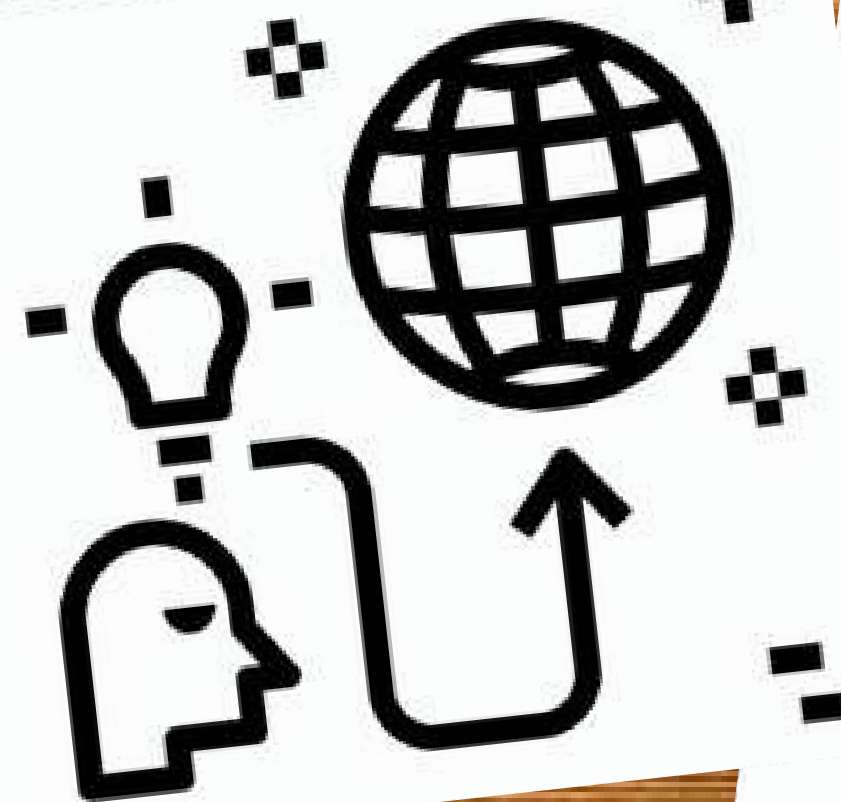


EACH BIOGRAPHY INCLUDES...

a mask, or
safety hood,
that covers the
face and
defends against
poisonous gas



gas mask



inventor

a person who
invented a
process or
device

VOCABULARY CARDS

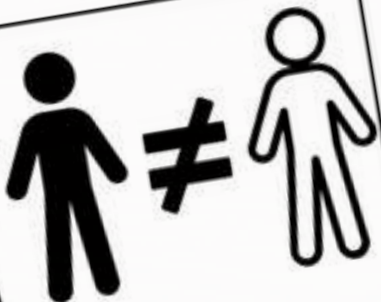
EACH BIOGRAPHY INCLUDES...

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Name: _____

Jesse Owens Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
		
		
		
		

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Name: _____

Jesse Owens Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

champion	world record	accomplishing something you have set out to do
gold medal	discrimination	the highest award in a sporting competition
dedicated	legendary	remarkable enough to be famous
equality	successful	a person who has defeated all rivals in a competition, especially in sports

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Name: _____

Jesse Owens Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

champion

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	Non-Examples

world record

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	Non-Examples

VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

EACH BIOGRAPHY INCLUDES...

While You're Reading

Mark with Symbols

!

when you find something interesting

?

when you are unsure or confused by something

*

when you find something important that you want to remember

Highlight with Colors

yellow

vocabulary words or key words

green

key phrases or definitions

Make Your Own Notations

symbol or color

meaning

**CLOSE READING
BOOKMARK
PAGE**

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Maya's Early Life

When Maya was born, her name was Marguerite Johnson. Her brother called her "my sister," but it sounded like "maya sister." "Maya" soon became a nickname that stayed with her the rest of her life.

Maya was born in St. Louis, Missouri, but spent a lot of her childhood with her grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas. When she was eight, she moved back to St. Louis to live with her mother. While there, Maya was hurt by her mother's boyfriend. Maya told the police. The man went to jail and soon died. Maya thought her voice had caused him die. She didn't speak again for a long time.

When she was a teenager, Maya and her mother moved to California. Maya loved to read. The books she read helped her to speak again. Maya attended high school, but in free time she worked a lot of different jobs. One of the jobs she had was as a dancer.

Maya's Adult Life

Dancing helped Maya travel all over Europe and Africa. She used every chance she had to talk about equal rights for black Americans and women. In 1959, when Maya was 31, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. asked her to be in charge of part of his organization. She took care of the organization in the northern states.



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Maya's Later Life

Maya never went to college, but she became a college professor in 1981. She taught American Studies at Wake Forest University. Her students called her Dr. Angelou.

In 1993, Bill Clinton became President of the United States and asked Maya to write a poem for him. Maya was also asked to write a poem for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. She was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011. It is the highest honor a citizen of the United States can earn. In 2013, Maya was asked to write a poem again. This time for the death of South African president, Nelson Mandela.

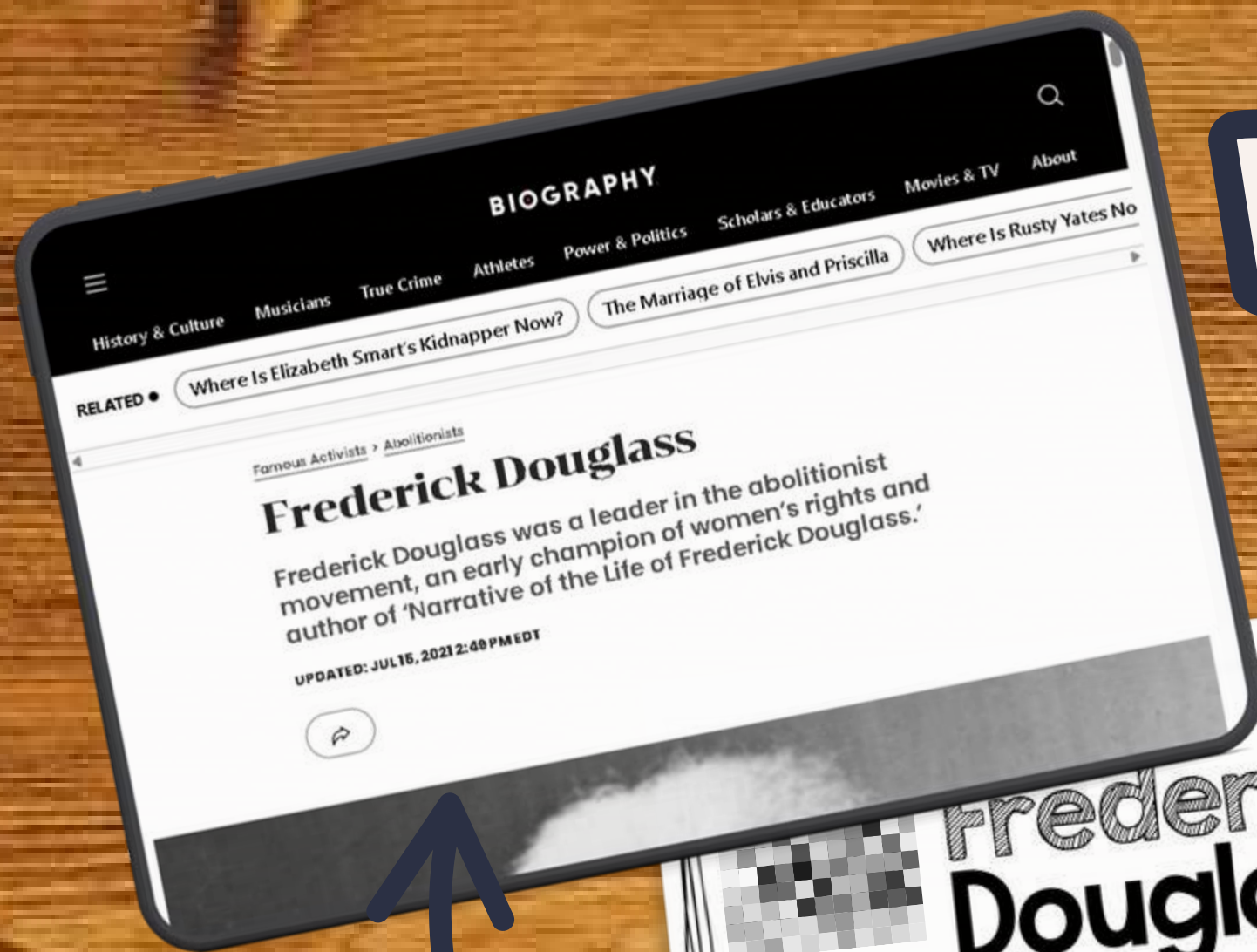
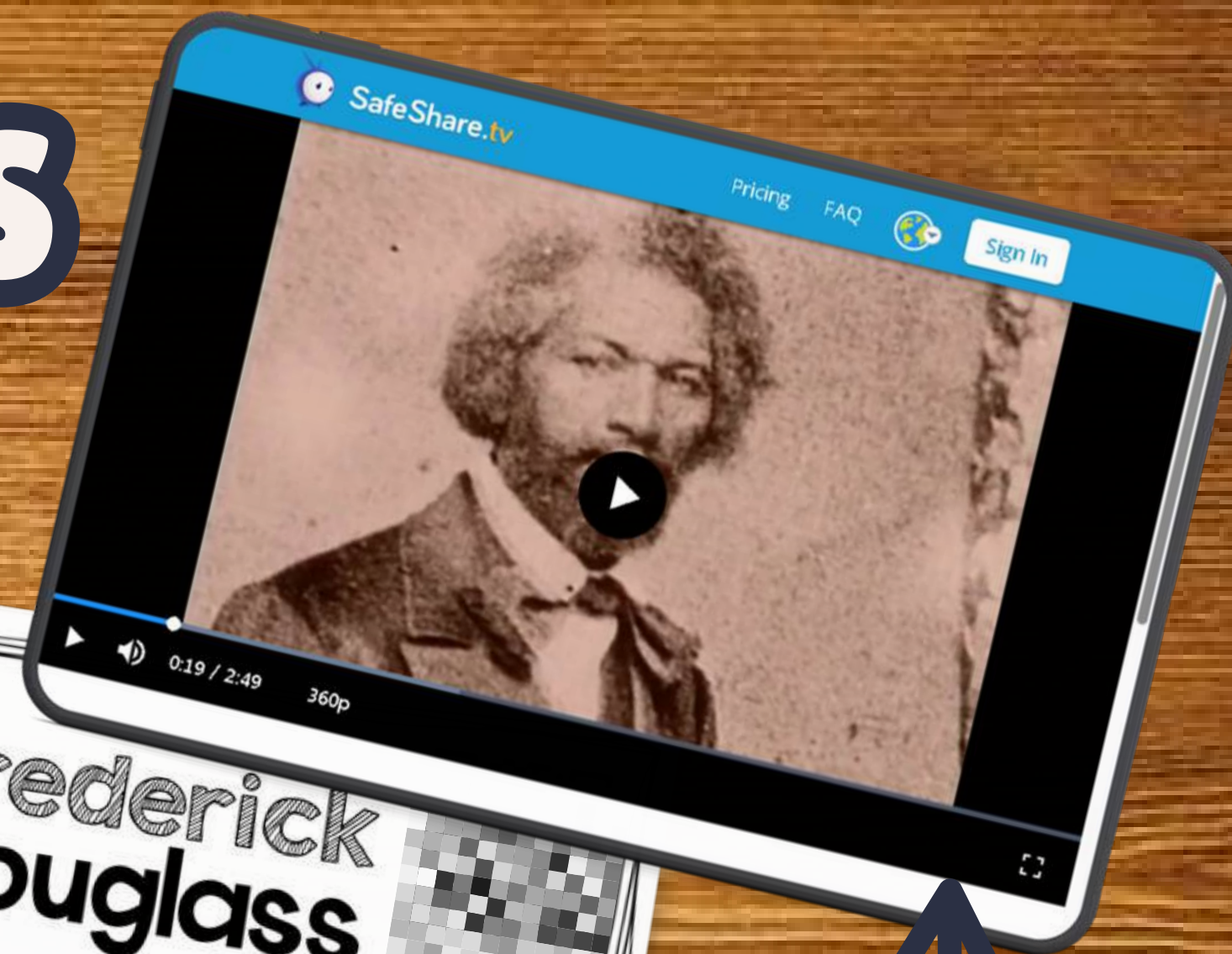
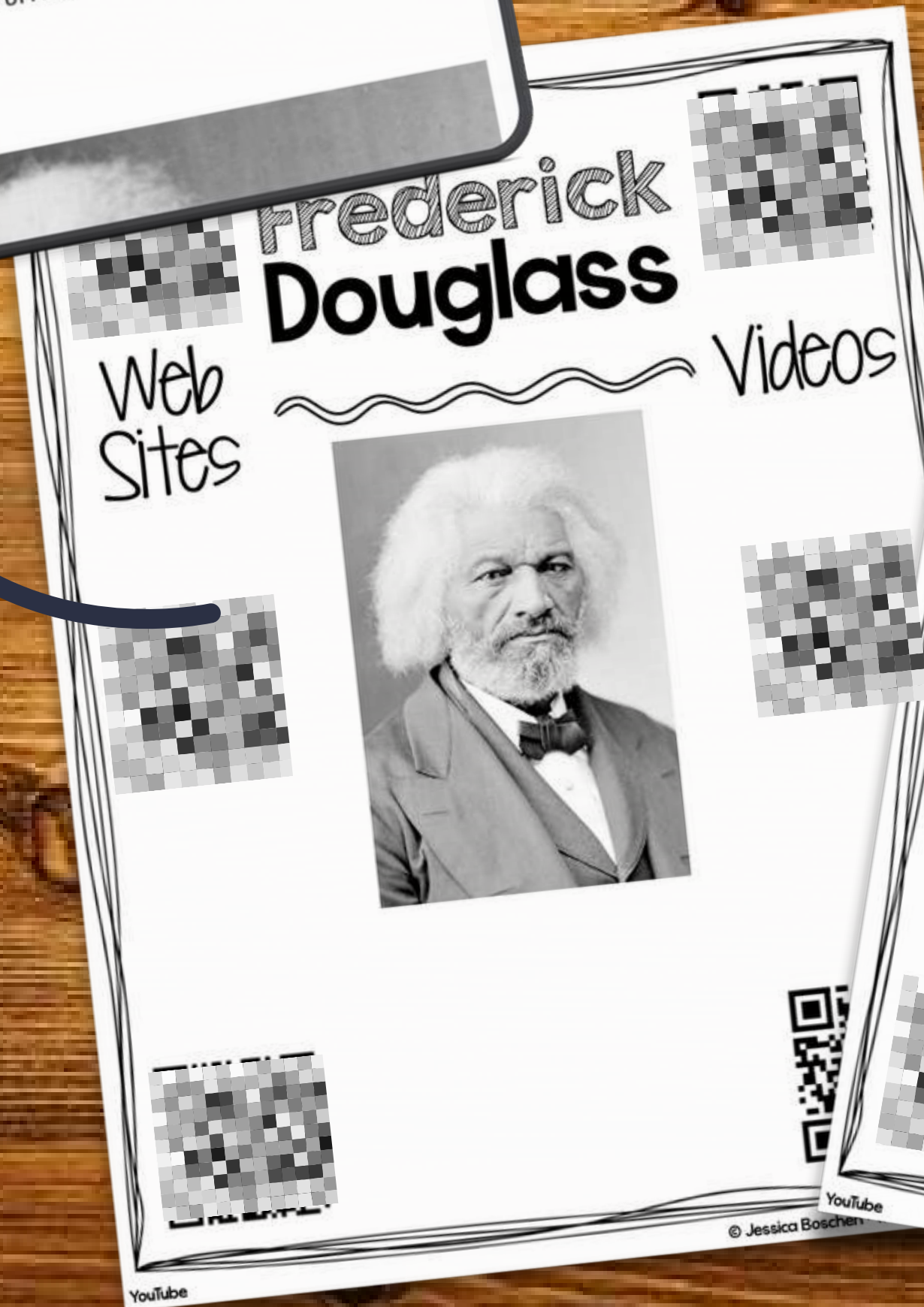
Maya died on May 28, 2014. She had many jobs during her life, but writing was her favorite. With writing, Maya used her voice to give hope to others.



**2 VERSION OF
READING PASSAGE
+ BIG POSTERS**

EACH BIOGRAPHY INCLUDES...

WEBSITES



EACH BIOGRAPHY INCLUDES...

Two overlapping worksheet templates for a Harriet Tubman biography report are shown on a wooden surface.

The top sheet is titled "Harriet Tubman Biography Report" and has a "Name:" field. It features a large area with horizontal lines for writing.

The bottom sheet is titled "Summary of Harriet" and has a "Name:" field. It includes the text "Harriet Tubman wanted" and "but" followed by lines for writing. A dark blue arrow points to the bottom left corner of the sheets.

Name: _____

Summary of Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman wanted _____

but _____

so she _____

Then _____

Write three facts about Harriet Tubman.

Fact

Describe three character traits of Harriet Tubman.

Other Information:

et T

My Notes About Harriet Tubman

Name: _____

Born: _____

Died: _____

What was her job?

What was her greatest accomplishment? What makes her important?

Write three facts about Harriet Tubman:

Fact	Fact	Fact

Describe three character traits of Harriet Tubman:

_____, _____, _____

Other Information:

et T

Harriet Tubman Cloze Read
Use the word bank to fill in the sentences about Harriet Tubman.

rented escape Underground Railroad free
slaves Union spy activist

Harriet Tubman was an anti-slavery _____ who worked for the Underground Railroad. The _____ was not a real railroad. It was a way people helped _____ escape to freedom before the Civil War.

Harriet was born a slave in 1820. When Harriet _____ about to others. While being rented, she was beaten, sold the Underground Railroad as a child. She wanted everyone to be free. When she was twelve, A plantation worker threw a heavy weight had many problems from the injury for _____ When Harriet was 30 years old, _____ of the Underground Railroad. After _____ When the Civil War began, _____ nurse and a cook. She became a _____ Union army kits of information. After the war ended, _____ her home.

Sequence Events
Cut out the significant events in Harriet Tubman's life and place them in the sequence.

1 → 2
4 ← 3
6 → 7

Sequence Events

Name: _____

Cut out the significant events in Harriet Tubman's life and glue them in order.

1 → 2 → 3

4 → 5

6 → 7 → 8

When she was 30 years old, she decided to go with the help of the Underground Railroad.	Harriet Tubman was born as a slave in 1820 in Maryland.	A few years later, she became the head of a spy network, giving the Union army lots of information.	When she was twelve, a slave tried to escape. During the escape, Harriet was hit in the head by a heavy weight.
When Harriet was six years old she was rented by a family to watch their baby. At age 8 she was rented by a farmer.	After the war ended, Harriet moved to Auburn with her parents.	She died in 1913 at her home in Auburn, New York.	During the Civil War, Harriet worked as a nurse and cook for the Union Army.

NOTE TAKING SHEETS

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

EACH BIOGRAPHY INCLUDES...

Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort each fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Early Life	Adulthood	Late Life
On April 8, 1905, Sarah died at the age of 50. The cause of her death is unknown.	Sarah listened to her customers and made sure they got exactly what they needed.	Sarah was born in 1855 in Toledo, Ohio.
Character Traits	Actions / Timeline	Influences
She was one of the first black American women to patent for an invention.	Her creativity and knowledge of Chicago.	Sarah lived in Ohio until around 1870. She then moved to Chicago, Illinois.
Little is known about Sarah's early life. Some stories say she was born into slavery and became free after the United States Civil War. Other stories say she was born free.	At the school, Sarah and Archie built the first folding bed. It became very popular.	Sarah and Archie built the first folding bed. It became very popular.
Sarah E. Goode was an entrepreneur and an inventor.	She was successful thanks to Sarah.	Sarah designed a new type of bed for her customers. It was a bed that folded into a cabinet.
Archie made the furniture. Sarah ran the successful business on her own.	When Sarah was 25 years old, she married Archibald "Archie" Goode. Sarah and Archie opened a furniture store together.	In 2012, a school for science and technology opened in Chicago and was named after Sarah.
	Sarah had six brothers and sisters. Her father was a carpenter.	

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**FACT
SORT**

Environment

where it lives

Ladybugs live in meadows, forests, and gardens.

Ladybugs live for about one to two years.

The changes a ladybug goes through is called metamorphosis.

Actions

does, can

Female ladybugs lay eggs on the underside of leaves.

If food is not available, ladybugs will eat each other.

Ladybugs are helpful because they eat plant-eating insects such as aphids.

An adult ladybug may eat up to 75 aphids each day.

Ladybugs larva eat hundreds of aphids during their stage.

Attributes

looks, has, is

Ladybugs have six legs and a body which looks like a tiny dome.

Ladybugs have four wings. The front two wings are wing covers to protect the back two.

Ladybugs are brightly colored to let predators know they are poisonous.

Ladybugs can be red, yellow or orange with small dots.

While this is for a different theme activity, it gives you an idea of how students can do the fact sort.

AVAILABLE IN THIS BUNDLE ARE BIOGRAPHIES FOR:

- Abraham Lincoln
- Albert Einstein
- Alexander Graham Bell
- Amelia Earhart
- Anne Frank
- Annie Oakley
- Barack Obama
- Benjamin Franklin
- Bessie Coleman
- Betsy Ross
- Booker T. Washington
- César Chávez
- Clara Barton
- Dolores Huerta
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Frederick Douglass
- Garrett Morgan
- George Washington
- George Washington Carver
- Harriet Tubman
- Helen Keller
- Jackie Robinson
- Jane Goodall
- Jesse Owens
- Juliette Gordon Low
- Louis Armstrong
- Mae Carol Jemison
- Malala Yousafzai
- Margaret Thatcher
- Marie Curie
- Maya Angelou
- Mother Teresa
- Nikola Tesla
- Rosa Parks
- Ruby Bridges
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- Sally Ride
- Sarah E. Goode
- Sojourner Truth
- Susan B. Anthony
- The Wright Brothers
- Thomas Edison
- Thomas Jefferson
- Thurgood Marshall
- Walt Disney

Dr. Martin Luther King



Dr. Martin Luther King
preacher, a public
civil rights activist
non-violent pro

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham
Lincoln was the
16th President
of the United
States.

He became a
lawyer and a
politician who
was known for



Abraham Lincoln

Who was Abraham Lincoln?

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States. When he became President, the country was in trouble and would soon enter the Civil War. President Lincoln ended slavery with a law called the Emancipation Proclamation.

Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809 in a log cabin in Kentucky. He became a lawyer and a politician who was known for his honesty.

On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was murdered while watching a play with his wife Mary.

Lincoln's Early Life

Abraham Lincoln did not go to school very often, but learned on his own through borrowed books. He had to work with his father to earn enough money to provide for the family. When Lincoln was nine years old, his mother died. His sister, Sarah, took care of him until his father remarried.

In 1830, Lincoln's family moved to Southern Illinois and he started a life on his own. Lincoln worked odd jobs to earn money. He worked on a river flatboat, as a postman, a shopkeeper, and even split firewood.

Lincoln's Adult Life

Lincoln became a member of the Illinois state congress when he was 25 years old. In 1842, he became known as "Honest Abe." In 1842, he married Mary Todd and fell in love with her. They married in 1842. During their marriage, three of the boys died when they were still children.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE



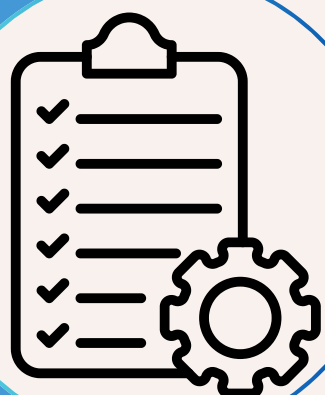
Combines Reading, Writing, and Social Studies

Students build literacy skills while learning meaningful history through an engaging, age-appropriate biography study.



Perfect for Black History Month and Beyond

Highlights an influential leader while promoting discussion, reflection, and historical understanding.



Easy to Prep and Implement

Print-and-go pages, clear structure, and included answer keys make this resource simple to use in any classroom setting.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!



I purchased this bundle because we do a graded biography research project every year and I often had difficulty finding good biographies that my students could actually read. Students loved them so much, they wanted to continue reading biographies of other people after they completed their own projects.

Karen B.



I love this resource! I really like that it comes with an article which is very helpful to my students. We work on a few together whole group discerning what are relevant facts to choose when we can only pick a few. Then, my students all pick one of their own to do. Some of them we do together, we then add a portrait that we draw with the help of a guided draw by an artist on Youtube who is really good. They always come out so wonderful!

Kathy Bailey





My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



What I have **LEARNED**