

Document Analysis: Effects of Haitian Revolution

Source: Frederick Douglass, Speech on Haiti at the Chicago World's Fair, January 2, 1893.

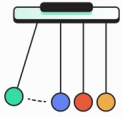
Note: Frederick Douglass was a famous abolitionist in the United States after he escaped slavery in 1838. Toward the end of his life, he reflected on Haiti's role in the abolition of slavery across the western world.

I can speak of her [Haiti], not only words of admiration, but words of gratitude as well. She has grandly served the cause of universal human liberty. We should not forget that the freedom you and I enjoy to-day; that the freedom that eight hundred thousand colored people enjoy in the British West Indies; the freedom that has come to the colored race the world over, is largely due to the brave stand taken by the black sons, of Haiti ninety years ago... Their swords were not drawn and could not be drawn simply for themselves alone. They were linked and interlinked with their race, and striking for their freedom, they struck for the freedom of every black man in the world. [Prolonged applause.]

It is said of ancient nations, that each had its special mission in the world and that each taught the world some important lesson... The Greeks taught the world philosophy and beauty... while the American Republic is giving the world an example of a Government by the people, of the people and for the people. [Applause.] Among these large bodies, the little community of Haiti, anchored in the Caribbean Sea, has had her mission in the world... She has taught the world the danger of slavery and the value of liberty. In this respect she has been the greatest of all our modern teachers.

I regard her as the original pioneer emancipator of the nineteenth century. [Applause.] It was her one brave example that first of all started the Christian world into a sense of the Negro's manhood... Until Haiti struck for freedom, the conscience of the Christian world slept profoundly over slavery. It was scarcely troubled even by a dream of this crime against justice and liberty... The mission of Haiti was to dispel this degradation and dangerous delusion, and to give to the world a new and true revelation of the black man's character. This mission she has performed and performed it well.

Historical Thinking Skill Graphic Organizer: Causation



Directions: Label each effect. If possible, rank the secondary effects in order of importance (most important on top). Be sure to explain why you believe the primary effect is the most important.

