

Document A

Source: Created from various sources.

Note: In 1789, the total slave population in Saint Domingue was 500,000. The white population was 32,000, and the mixed-race population was 25,000.

Timeline of Abolition in Saint Domingue

EV

- 1789:** The French Revolution begins.
- 1790:** Free men of color in Saint Domingue proclaim themselves French citizens; the French National Assembly grants full civic rights to free men of color
- 1791:** A slave revolt begins in the north of Saint Domingue, Toussaint joins the revolution and serves as doctor to the troops; he also commands a small detachment of slave soldiers.
- 1792:** As a military commander, Toussaint gains a reputation for running an orderly camp and for training his men in both guerilla tactics and the European shoulder to shoulder style of war.
- 1794:** The revolutionary government in France under Robespierre abolishes slavery in France and all its colonies; Toussaint and his troops stop their revolt and now support the French.
- 1796:** Toussaint, General Dessalines, and General Christophe organize an army against the British, who are nervous about abolition spreading to their colony of Jamaica.
- 1798:** Toussaint defeats the British; becomes ruler of Saint Domingue.
- 1801:** Toussaint conquers Santo Domingo, the Spanish portion of the island.
- 1802:** Napoleon sends 21,000 soldiers to Saint Domingue to reinstate slavery. Toussaint is tricked into a negotiation meeting, is captured and sent by ship to France.
- 1803:** Napoleon withdraws from Saint Domingue but Toussaint dies in a French jail.
- 1804:** Victorious over the French, a free Haiti declares independence.

Document Analysis

1. What events in 1789 in France triggered the later slave revolution in Saint Domingue?
2. What role did Toussaint Louverture play in the 1791 slave revolt that started the Haitian Revolution?
3. Toussaint trained his soldiers in both guerilla tactics and “European style” fighting. What’s the difference?
4. In 1794, why did Toussaint stop his revolt against French colonial troops on the island?
5. In what year did Toussaint become ruler of Saint Domingue? In what year did he gain control of the Spanish side of the island?
6. According to this document, what two things are most important to remember about Toussaint?