

Name: _____ Class: _____

The Emancipation Proclamation

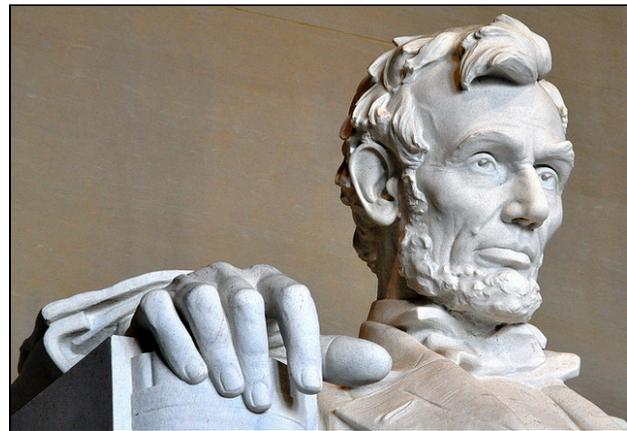
By President Abraham Lincoln
1863

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) was the 16th president of the United States who led the country through the Civil War and abolished slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued during the height of the Civil War and was directed at the 11 states that were still in rebellion. Using his authority as Commander in Chief of the armed forces, Lincoln decreed that all slaves within those states were free, and could join and fight in paid service in the army. As you read, take notes on the clauses and conditions of the Emancipation Proclamation. What was its purpose?

January 1, 1863

By the President of the United States of America:
A Proclamation.¹

[1] Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:²



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"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward,³ and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress⁴ such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid,⁵ by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing⁶ testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

1. Announcement, ruling
2. Namely, specifically
3. From this time on
4. **Repress (verb):** restrict, persecute
5. **Aforesaid (adjective):** stated before
6. **Countervailing (adjective):** contradictory

Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance⁷ with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

- [5] Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin⁸ upon the people so declared to be free to abstain⁹ from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln is in the public domain.

7. In agreement

8. **Enjoin (verb):** to command

9. **Abstain (verb):** to choose not to do something

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What was Lincoln's most likely purpose for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation?
 - A. To free all enslaved people in America and bring an end to the institution of slavery once and for all
 - B. To free most slaves in America, namely those in the rebelling states, thus weakening said states
 - C. To strengthen both the Union and the Confederate armies by allowing newly freed slaves to join
 - D. To provoke the South into an all-out civil war against the North

2. PART B: Which of the following best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "...all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free..." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "...the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons..." (Paragraph 2)
 - C. "And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary selfdefence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages." (Paragraph 7)
 - D. "And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God." (Paragraph 9)

3. Which of the following best describes the constitutional principle which allows President Lincoln to make this proclamation?
 - A. His power as the Commander-in-Chief
 - B. The Thirteenth Amendment
 - C. The power of Congress to declare war
 - D. The right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

4. What is the purpose of paragraph 5 in the structure of the text?
 - A. It serves to break up the blocky text of the rest of the proclamation by providing a list of rebel states.
 - B. It lists all of the states and parts of states that are considered in rebellion against the United States and the ways in which they can be proven otherwise.
 - C. It lists all of the states and parts of states that are considered in rebellion against the United States in order to make clear those in which slaves are now considered free.
 - D. It lists all of the states and parts of states that are considered in rebellion against the United States; Lincoln is essentially declaring war on them.

5. What is the significance of allowing formerly enslaved persons to join the military? Cite specific evidence from the text in your response.

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. How do you think this proclamation was received by the Confederate states? The Union states?
2. How do you think this proclamation was received by slaves and freed slaves?
3. Do you think this proclamation had immediate success? Why or why not?
4. Do you think this Lincoln's vision of America came true? In the context of the text, how has America changed over time? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature or art to answer this question.
5. In the context of this text, what are the effects of prejudice and discrimination? How has our nation responded to it throughout history? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature or art to answer this question.